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Daily Report
Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-016 *25 January 1995*

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CIS Foreign Ministers Meeting Opens in Moscow

LD2501094595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0907 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Andrey Serov and Andrey Urban]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—"New areas of cooperation are now opening before member countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States," said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, opening a meeting of the CIS foreign ministers' council in Moscow on Wednesday.

The heads of foreign offices will examine coordination of foreign policy actions. They also plan to discuss draft documents on cooperation in the military sphere and protection of outside borders.

The ministers will consider questions on preparations for the celebration of the 50th anniversary since the victory over Nazism.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 25 Jan

LD2501185795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0634 GMT 25 Jan 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 25 TASS—Russian newspapers continue to pay main attention to the situation in and around Chechnya. "The legal aspect of the use of armed forces in the Chechen conflict is beyond any doubt," Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalev says in an interview with the ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA newspaper.

"There are no and cannot be substantiated legal doubts on the use of armed forces to resolve the Chechen conflict. The actions by the president and federal bodies of power establishing constitutional law and order in a member of the Russian Federation have adequate legal grounds," the minister stresses.

According to Kovalev, "there is no state conflict between the Russian Federation and the Chechen Republic, since Chechnya is a member of the Russian Federation. The conflict is a confrontation between illegal armed groups and federal bodies of state power.

"Illegal groups must be disarmed, irrespective of their ethnic composition and their whereabouts—Chechnya, the Volga area, the Urals or Siberia," claims the minister.

Kovalev notes that there are facts confirming the participation of mercenaries in combat operations on the side of separatist leader Dudayev's detachments, "but not on a scale indicated by the press". He reports that a group of Jordanian nationals was detained with firearms and a great amount of ammunition.

Lieutenant-General Stanislav Kavun, deputy commander of Interior Ministry troops, said in an interview with the army newspaper KRASNAYA ZVEZDA that "interior troops face now, as before, the most important task of disarming all illegal armed detachments in the Chechen Republic, including groups of gunmen operating in the rear of our troops.

"Besides, interior troops are responsible for guarding important projects necessary for normal life in Chechnya."

Turning to the nature of combat operations in Chechnya, the general stated: "Many our officers were not only at 'flash points' on the territory of the former Soviet Union, they fought in Afghanistan too.

"They claim that battles in Groznyy eclipsed in their ferocity everything they had encountered in the past. Large-scale use of artillery, missile launchers and armour by illegal detachments proves that it would be next to impossible for interior troops to disarm militants and mercineries without assistance from Defence Ministry troops," Kavun noted.

The IZVESTIYA newspaper carries a statement by Salambek Khadzhiev, head of the Chechen Government of national revival, who states that "Dudayev's gunmen continue to receive arms in quantities no less than amounts received by Russian troops".

According to Khadzhiev's claims, weapons from Russia are hauled in tented trucks along the road running from Groznyy to the south.

Nizhnyy Novgorod Governor Boris Nemtsov makes a proposal in the NOVAYA EZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA newspaper to impose a state of emergency on Chechnya after the end of the large-scale war and to appoint a governor-general there rather than a representative of the Chechen diaspora in Moscow.

According to Nemtsov, there will be "no Afghanization of the Chechen conflict in this case. On the other hand, there will be no great strife between Chechen clans".

The governor believes that the question on Chechnya's independence will possibly be discussed, but Chechnya has no chances to become independent.

Referring to reliable sources in the Kremlin, the IZVESTIYA newspaper notes in connection with a meeting between the Russian and Ukrainian presidents in Moscow on Tuesday that "not a single outstanding and old problem in Russian-Ukrainian relations has been resolved".

This is true of Ukrainian debts for Russian energy carriers as well as of the problem of the Black Sea Fleet.

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The newspaper believes that the arrival of the Ukrainian leader "was initiated by Kiev to defuse somehow the unfavourable situation in relations between the two nations".

The RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA newspaper singles out words from an interview given to the newspaper by Finnish Premier Esko Aho who stressed that "following his country's admission to the European Union, Russia continues to remain "the same important neighbour to Finland as in the past".

ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA runs an article, saying that a decision of the Russian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations on suspending the Russian-Cuban deal "can put into doubt the existence of our sugar industry".

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U.S., FRG Responses To Kozyrev Reflect 'Equitable' Ties

MM2401125795 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Pavel Vasilyev under the "At the Russian Federation Foreign Ministry" rubric: "The Partnership Is Demonstrating Its Maturity"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In our view, these words spoken by Andrey Kozyrev provide the very best summary of his arduous talks with the leaders of the U.S. and German foreign policy departments, held in Geneva and Bern. A wide range of problems was discussed both in the dialogue with Warren Christopher and in the conversation with Klaus Kinkel, ranging from bilateral cooperation to the strengthening of security on the continent as a whole. But the chief attention was devoted to events in Chechnya.

To all appearances, the Russian minister's conclusions also suited his colleagues. In particular, while not agreeing with armed methods for restoring constitutional order in Chechnya, the head of the German Foreign Ministry nonetheless did not cast doubt on the need to support Boris Yeltsin, as the democratically elected president. Partnership ties are not a one-day event, he emphasized. We want to remain Russia's friend, and it is in this capacity that Germany expresses its concern to the Russian Government.

Andrey Kozyrev's other interlocutor—U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher—declared that Moscow's recent initiatives on the Chechen problem are "a reflection of a carefully thought-out Russian policy." In his opinion, President Yeltsin is "in control of the situation," and the statement made by the chairman of the government was "coordinated in detail" with the head of state.

In other words, a complex but extremely necessary and important step has been taken in Switzerland in the direction of psychological "habituation" to equitable partnership relations.

Presidential Aide Livshits Warns West Against Sanctions

LD2401131695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—Presidential economic aide Aleksandr Livshits warned the European Union on Tuesday that possible economic sanctions against Russia in connection with the Chechen crisis would be a grave mistake and would boomerang against the union itself.

"A suspension of support to Russian reforms will be a mistake with long-lasting consequences and will be detrimental to the whole European Community," Livshits told TASS commenting on the Monday statement of EU foreign ministers who made it understood that an economic accord signed with Russia last summer may not be ratified if the situation in Chechnya did not improve.

Livshits said that the European Union should think first of all about the whole of Russia, rather than the personality of its president.

"Politicians of European states, who make statements about a possible use of economic sanctions against Russia, can disagree with Boris Yeltsin or the Russian Government about the way of the Chechen settlement. But the credits and investments are received not by the president or government members personally, they are received by the whole country," Livshits said.

Ten days ago Livshits told TASS that economic sanctions were sure to trigger a wave of anti-Western moods in Russia. They would be used by certain politicians and parties which "is fraught with an influence on the Russian policy in general," he said.

"The West will hardly welcome a growth of chauvinism and nationalism among the Russians," Livshits stressed.

Ukrainian President Arrives in Moscow; To Meet Yeltsin

LD2401132695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1304 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 24 Jan—Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma arrived in Moscow today on a working visit. In the second half of the day he will meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin. [passage omitted]

Kuchma's Readiness for Agreement Questioned

LD2401172995 Moscow NTV in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The presidents of Russia and Ukraine met in Moscow late this afternoon. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent Vladimir Lenskiy] The Russian and Ukrainian presidents were in friendly spirits before their Kremlin meeting began.

[Begin recording] [Kuchma] I had five minutes to spare, so I had a look at the repairs that have been done here.

[Yeltsin] Have you seen my office yet?

[Kuchma] Not yet. [end recording]

[Lenskiy] In protocol terms, this meeting is described as a working one. The presidents were discussing the questions which had remained unresolved by the experts, including those on the Black Sea Fleet and on mutual accounts. The meeting was held behind closed doors and, as it seems, under slight pressure from the president of Russia.

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[Begin recording] [Yeltsin to Kuchma] We are ready to make a decision—we are, indeed. We told your predecessor that we are ready. We are telling you, or rather we told you then, when you were a deputy, as it were, that we were ready. You supported us then. Now we are saying to you: we are ready. But we see all of a sudden that you are less ready than you were when you were still a deputy.

[Kuchma, laughing] I haven't noticed any such thing yet. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yeltsin, Kuchma Hold 2-Hour Meeting

LD2401172795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1645 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—The following report of the Russian president's press service has been circulated:

"A meeting of Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma was held in Kremlin today.

"The tete-a-tete meeting which lasted for over two hours gave a comprehensive analysis to Russian-Ukrainian relations. Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma voiced the need for new bilateral relations and outlined measures to fulfill this agreement.

"The presidents discussed the problems of the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian debt to Russia, alongside other bilateral issues.

"The Russian and Ukrainian presidents reached agreement on many of the discussed problems".

Discuss Black Sea Fleet, Ukrainian Debt

LD2401175095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1710 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS Correspondent Andrey Shtorkh]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24—A two-hour Kremlin meeting of Russian and Ukrainian leaders discussed today bilateral relations, including the Black Sea Fleet and the Ukrainian debt to Russia.

When opening the meeting, the Russian president said "we have not met for long and there is plenty of problems we should settle." Yeltsin stressed that Russia is ready to do it and reminded this was said to Leonid Kuchma when he still was the prime minister. "We are voicing our readiness again," said Yeltsin.

The tete-a-tete meeting analyzed bilateral ties and decided on the need to "build new relations", assistant to the Russian president for international issues Dmitriy Ryurikov told correspondents upon the meeting completion. In his words, the presidents outlined measures to implement their agreement.

The dialogue joined by first Russian Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets also dwelt on the future of the Black Sea Fleet, the Ukrainian debt to Russia and a broad range of bilateral relations, said Ryurikov. The presidents "reached many agreements and are satisfied with the meeting results".

Most of the meeting was held in the Blue Oval Hall, after which Boris Yeltsin invited Kuchma to his study where the presidents spent another hour. Upon the meeting completion, Kuchma went to see Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, well-informed sources at the presidential administration told ITAR-TASS.

Kuchma Asks Chernomyrdin Not To Pressure Ukraine

LD2401212395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1934 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma had a meeting in the House of Government Tuesday night.

Kuchma called on the Russian authorities not to put pressure on Ukraine because, he said, this could bring about undesired results.

He said that he had inherited debts from the previous president and that Ukraine could not pay its debts to Russia now. Kuchma urged the Russian authorities to look for a solution jointly with Ukrainian leaders.

Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov also attended the meeting.

Economic Cooperation Accord Signed

LD2401214295 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 2100 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting took place on Tuesday between Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin. Late Tuesday evening [24 January] an agreement between the governments of the two countries on the basic principles of trade and economic cooperation this year was signed on the results of the meeting. At the same time the parties signed a protocol on the procedure of and timetable for the restructuring of Ukraine's state debt to Russia.

Economic Accords With Ukraine Linked to Agreement on Fleet

LD2401173295 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1415 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—The signing on 24 January of seven bilateral agreements between Ukraine and Russia will depend on the results of a meeting between Boris Yeltsin and Leonid Kuchma, the presidents of these states, which is taking place in the Kremlin. "Three of the agreements have been prepared

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by Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations," Viktor Hladush, first deputy minister for foreign economic relations, said. "In particular, this is an agreement on the basic principles of trade and economic cooperation in 1995, on the re-export of goods and the procedure for issuing permission for re-exports, and on the implementation of a free trade regime." The other documents concern the avoidance of double taxation; crossing points on the state border; the procedure for the mutual delivery of weapons, military hardware, and components; the organization of repair work; and the provision of services designated for the military.

As UNIAN learned from one of the members of the Ukrainian delegation, the Russian side is linking the signing of bilateral economic documents with the attainment of a fundamental agreement on the Black Sea Fleet. In connection with the this, First Deputy Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk, who is the head of the Ukrainian delegation at the talks with Russia, has taken with him to Moscow all the Ukrainian proposals relating to this problem, in particular those on leasing the bases and dividing the infrastructure. In his words: "Everything depends on the Russian president's decision."

Commentary Views Proposed Increase in U.S. Defense Spending

LD2501115495 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1810 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Commentary written by Vladislav Kozyakov and read by announcer]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Two U.S. Congressmen, Floyd Spence and Bill Young, heading the key military committees in the House of Representatives, have proposed to increase the military expenditure by $126 billion over five years. Commentary is by Vladislav Kozyakov.

Many Americans and people in other countries were undoubtedly perplexed to hear a report about plans to build up the Pentagon's military budget. The cold war became a thing of the past, as did the threat of a global nuclear catastrophe accounting for the creation of a huge war machinery. Today's regional conflicts do not match the past dangers.

Nevertheless, the lawmakers seem increasingly concerned with military issues. The recent White House proposals to adjust the budget so as to set aside an additional $25 billion in the years to come has obviously dissatisfied the newly elected Congress. It now demands five times as much.

But not only the size of defense allocations are called into question. Some congressmen believe that simply augmenting the Pentagon budget would mean in principle backing of present concepts for defense construction. For one, the existing plan of the maintenance of the armed forces allows the United States to conduct two major regional wars at a time.

Senator Strobe Talbott, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, feels such an approach provides little or no national security benefit. Republican strategists are putting forward ideas that have already been rejected by life. Congressman Floyd Spence, a co-author of the proposed $126 billion increase in the military spending, has introduced a bill called the National Security Revitalization Act. It stipulates the revival of the SDI and the program of Star Wars, and this means a return to the line for undermining the Antimissile Defense Systems Limitation Treaty, signed between Moscow and Washington in 1972, which paved the way for agreements on nuclear cuts.

Meanwhile, Senator Jesse Helms, chairing the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, offered to put off debates on the ratification of the START-2 Treaty envisaging further steps to reduce the American and Russian nuclear arsenals.

These and other ideas pushed forward by the U.S. Congress affect the key aspects of international security and stability. They are fraught with dangers for the whole world. Some of the congressmen remind their Cold War predecessors, who talked about a lack of strategic bombers and missiles, or the window of vulnerability, to demand greater means for the Pentagon. Later it turned out that those were only pretexts for winding up the arms race. There remains to be seen whether the supporters of the old fashioned political dogmata will dominate the U.S. Congress.

Foreign Ministry Pro-Saddam Line on Iraq Scored

MM2401172595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 25 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Elmar Guseynov: "What the New Stage in the Friendshiup With Saddam Will Cost Russia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The anniversary of the start of the war in the Persian Gulf coincided this year with another hearing in the Security Council on the situation relating to Baghdad's fulfillment of the UN resolutions. Again the Security Council found no reason to lift the economic sanctions against Iraq. This was largely due to satellite reconnaissance data provided by the Americans, which indicates that Iraq is continuing to conceal from the UN inspectors a considerable quantity of military equipment that is due for destruction.

But out of fairness it must be said that there are forces in the world that have not only forgiven Saddam Husayn and forgotten everything. They do not regard the Iraqi regime as aggressive at all and are even prepared to help restore its might, including military might. These friends of the Iraqi dictator include the pro-Iraq lobby in Russia.

A Near East Department aide described for IZVESTIYA the stance adopted by Smolenskaya Square [Russian Foreign Ministry] on the Iraqi situation as follows. You cannot use sanctions to drive the Iraqis into a corner. It

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would make them turn to strongarm actions again. The Foreign Affairs Ministry aide dismissed as insignificant the argument that in the past 15 years Saddam had twice attacked neighbors when no one had driven him into a corner.

Baghdad's undoubted willingness to cooperate with the United Nations must be encouraged by relaxing the economic embargo. After all, it is bringing suffering to millions of Iraqis. Of course, the Russian diplomat admitted, the United Nations suggested to Iraq that it sell oil worth $1.6 billion under its supervision to buy food and medicines. But the Iraqi authorities find the terms an affront to their pride. The Russian diplomat would not enlarge on the fact that for his pride's sake Saddam was prepared to starve women and children.

The Russian Foreign Ministry intends to establish a collective security system in the Persian Gulf region based on that operating within the framework of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], building Iraq and its neighbors—recent opponents on the battlefield—into this system. The total impotence of the OSCE security system and of the OSCE itself in the Bosnian conflict is no problem as far as Russian diplomats are concerned.

Moreover the diplomat refused to consider the ruling regime in Iraq aggressive. He also acknowledged the possibility of the resumption of supplies of Russian weapons to Iraq after the lifting of sanctions. How can you restore Baghdad's military might and at the same time create a system of collective security in the region? How can you persuade the Saudis and Kuwaitis, who make no secret of their hatred of the Iraqi authorities, that this regime, which is forever fighting bloody wars with neighbors and with its own people, is not aggressive and that arming it does not contradict the region's security interests?

Moreover, it was clear from the conversation with the diplomat that the orientation toward Saddam's Iraq is seen in the Russian Foreign Ministry as corresponding to Russia's state interests in the region. Why do our diplomats prefer to support this particular regime? Why, when expecting to get tens of billions of dollars in credit from the West to save our empty budget, are they prepared to embark on confrontation with the leaders of the West for the sake of impossible Iraqi debts to Russia?

Friendship with Saddam, who is prepared to fight the whole world, has already cost Russia seven billion [currency unspecified] in unpaid debts. How much more is it going to cost us if, contrary to reality and common sense, the Russian diplomats succeed in working wonders and put the regime back on its feet, allow it to recover its breath, and pump it full of our weapons again on credit?

These questions of mine went unanswered.

Yeltsin Statement on Troop Pullout Treaty With Estonia

LD2401202295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1957 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin submitted to the State Duma of the Federal Assembly for ratification the Russo-Estonian Treaty on Russian troops withdrawal from the territory of the Estonian Republic and the terms of their temporary stationing on its territory, and the agreement on social guarantees of pensioners of the Russian Armed Forces living on the territory of the Estonian Republic. Both documents were signed in Moscow on July 26, 1994.

According to a dispatch received by ITAR-TASS from the president's press service, in a letter sent in this connection to Ivan Rybkin, chairman of the State Duma, President Boris Yeltsin points out in particular:

"The treaty guaranteed the necessary legal status to the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation temporarily quartered in Estonia, and created favorable conditions for their stationing up to the completion of their pullout by August 31, 1994, and also contains social guarantees for Russian servicemen and members of their families. The treaty regulates all financial, property and other claims connected with the stationing of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation on the Estonian territory.

The agreement guarantees to military pensioners and members of their families civic, political and socio-economic rights and freedoms on the Estonian territory in accordance with the generally recognized international legal standards. It envisages that military pensioners and members of their families will receive residence permits and retain the rights for their property (including dwelling houses) and guarantees pensions to military pensioners to be paid by Russia.

The treaty and the agreement meet the interests of the Russian Federation."

Foreign Ministry Rejects Reports on Nuclear Center

LD2401185295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 24 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Grigoriy Karasin, has described as "untrue" the Western media's reports on the lack of a system for accounting nuclear materials, strict confidentiality, etc. in the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow.

Karasin remarked that "both in Russia and the West the control of and ensuring physical security of nuclear materials is very pressing." "We do not deny that after the break-up of the former Soviet Union there is no more

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a centralized system for ensuring safe storage of such materials, reports on their thefts appeared," he added.

However, "the existing Russian systems for security of nuclear installations are no less effective than their foreign equivalents and guarantee the prevention of nuclear thefts," he stated. "Despite periodically appearing versions, nothing has been documentarily proved on the contrary," he emphasized.

"Russia is interested in wide international cooperation in ensuring the security of nuclear materials and installations. This is why the Kurchatov Institute and the U.S. national laboratory Sandia agreed to design and introduce a modern security system to meet the requirements of today," Karasin said.

Russia Wants Big Role in Reforming DPRK Nuclear Program

LD2501094495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0915 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Andrey Bychkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 25 TASS— Russia wants to play a leading role in reforming the North Korean nuclear programme and may even refuse to join the organisation which is being created for the purpose by the United States, South Korea and Japan if it is proposed a secondary role in it.

"Russia will not agree to the role of a 'junior brother' in the international consortium which is being created to reorient the North Korean nuclear programme. In the final end we shall decide ourselves whether to join it or not", Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Aleksandr Panov told TASS on Wednesday.

"We shall hardly agree to a secondary role", he added referring to the first consultations scheduled for early February between Moscow and Washington on the work in the Korean Energy Development Organisation (KEDO). The consortium was proposed last year by the USA, Japan and South Korea to ensure the transfer of the nuclear programme of Pyongyang from heavy to light-water reactors which would dispel fears about a possible A-bomb production by North Korea. Russia, China, France, Germany and Australia were invited to participate.

Panov stressed that Russia can supply a light-water reactor to Pyongyang itself and said that North Korea had several times made it clear that it is interested in Russia-made reactors. "This is logically explained by a number of circumstances: We used to maintain an active cooperation with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, their experts were trained in Russia, know our equipment, speak the Russian language. The Russian equipment is reliable enough and cheap", Panov said adding that a Russian light-water reactor had already been shipped to Finland.

The deputy minister said that US-North Korean consultations last October "made sure in principle that the previous North Korean nuclear programme had been closed".

"A completely new programme is being launched which will rule out the creation of nuclear weapons. We clearly see that North Korea has no A-bomb and is not going to create it especially now", Panov said.

Russia, U.S. Prepare for Space Shuttle-Station 'Rendezvous'

LD2401133395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1239 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Gritsenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS— The American shuttle "Discovery" may approach the Russian orbiting station "Mir" as close as ten metres, ITAR-TASS was told by deputy head of the Russian Flight Control Centre Viktor Blagov. The rendezvous is scheduled for February 7, the sixth day of the American-Russian mission which will be launched on February 2 at the Canaveral space port. The rendezvous will be a rehearsal of the shuttle's first docking with "Mir" scheduled for June 1995.

"Discovery" will approach the "Mir" station 100 metres. Crews of "Discovery" and "Mir" will be monitoring effects of the shuttle's engine operation on solar panels and other units of "Mir". A 30- metre rendezvous is planned, but a closer contact is possible, Blagov said.

The crew of "Discovery" is to ascertain good visibility of the docking unit of "Mir" and to make a fly-around of it. These activities will be video recorded with a broad-view camera installed in the shuttle's payload module.

American astronauts had a training term in the Russian Zvyozdny town in the Summer 1994.

The mission duration is eight days, ITAR-TASS was told in Videocosmos Joint-Stock Association. The crew will use the spacelab laboratory for technological, biomedical, crystal and protein experiments.

On the first mission day, a Spartan satellite will be brought in orbit to be returned into the shuttle's payload bay with a remote manipulator two days later. Janis Force and Bernard Harris will carry out extravehicular activities to test new equipment and instruments.

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Political Issues

Polevanov Removed From Deputy Prime Minister Post

LD2401160395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1541 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—Vladimir Polevanov was removed from the posts of vice-premier and chairman of the Russian State Committee for Property by today's decree of Russian president on proposal of the Russian premier and in accordance with item D of Article 83 of the Russian Constitution.

An instruction of Boris Yeltsin nominated Polevanov deputy head of the president's control department, says a report of the presidential press service received by ITAR-TASS today.

Participants in Security Council Session Listed

LD2501154995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1513 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (INTERFAX)—The latest events inside and around Chechnya were discussed by Russia's Security Council, which met in session under the chairmanship of Russian President Boris Yeltsin in the Kremlin Wednesday.

Yeltsin formulated the agenda in the following way: Progress in disarming illegal armed groups in Chechnya and the handover of the law-enforcement function from the armed forces to the Interior Ministry. Yeltsin asked Defense Minister Pavel Grachev and Interior Minister Viktor Yerin to speak on the issue.

After that a package of measures was to be discussed on how to bring about the social and economic revival of the Chechen republic. Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was asked to make a report.

After the agenda was announced, journalists were asked to leave the hall. Yeltsin said that after the Security Council's session its Secretary Oleg Lobov would hold a news conference.

Taking part in the Security Council's session - apart from Yeltsin, Chernomyrdin, Grachev and Yerin - were speaker of the upper house of parliament Vladimir Shumeyko, Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray, Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Emergency Situations Minister Sergey Shoygu, chief of Russia's External Intelligence Yevgeniy Primakov, Federal Counterintelligence chief Sergey Stepashin, Director of the Federal Border Guard Service Andrey Nikolayev and Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov.

Presidential aide Viktor Ilyushin, presidential national security adviser Yuriy Baturin and first Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets were in attendance, too.

Grachev Hailed on End to Chechen 'Military Operation'

LD2501155195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1335 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 25 (Interfax)—Russia's Security Council ended a meeting in Moscow Wednesday by working out how to transfer army functions to interior ministry troops aimed at restoring the federal constitution to the Chechen republic.

Defense Minister Pavel Grachev received congratulations following an end to the military operation there, one source told Interfax.

Chernomyrdin Discusses Chechnya With Shumeyko, Rybkin

LD2401190395 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1800 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting took place in the Russian Federation government building today between Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin, Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko, and State Duma Chairman Ivan Rybkin. Ways of normalizing the situation in the Chechen Republic were discussed during the meeting as well as further measures to assist in bringing about a cessation of bloodshed and the restoration of the national economy and the administrative bodies in the Chechen Republic.

Meets Chechen Elders in Moscow

LD2401174595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1723 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Taranov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Jan--Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Government, met a delegation from the council of elders of the Chechen Republic in the Russian Government building this evening. During a conversation lasting almost two hours, they discussed issues concerning the resolution of the Chechen problem. Viktor Chernomyrdin stressed that now "a great deal depends on our actions." The participants in the meeting exchanged opinions on possible ways out of the crisis in Chechnya.

Sergey Shakhray, Russian Federation deputy prime minister, took part in the talks. After the meeting ended, the parties refused to comment on its outcome.

Parties Call for End To Combat Operations

LD2401191795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1858 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—"Combat operations in Chechnya can and must be stopped," concluded a meeting of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and members of the Chechen Council of Elders headed by Council Chairman Said

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Akhmed Adizov, says a report of the Russian Government press service received by ITAR-TASS today. The meeting lasted for two hours.

"The sides proceeded from the common opinion that the Russian and Chechen peoples have lived and will live together in a single state. It is now necessary to stop the bloodshed in order to restore peaceful life and economy," says the report.

"The sides agreed to use their influence and authority on all parties to the conflict.

"The meeting noted that Dudayev and his regime do not have political future. However, the Chechen people has the future to be determined".

Grachev: Deputies' Presence in Palace Delayed Action

LD2401173795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1704 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Jan—The presence of Russian deputies together with Sergey Kovalev in the "Presidential Palace" building in Groznyy delayed the progress of military action in the Chechen capital. The federal forces were for some time compelled to hold back from storming their main target. Russian Defense Minister Grachev stated this at a news conference today.

He said: "Neither the president, prime minister, or defense minister were able to take the decision to seize, bomb, or make any other kind of strike on the place while the deputies were inside."

According to Grachev's assessment, this was the reason why the federal forces carried out combat action around the palace for a significant amount of time, prolonging the resolution of the main task of the operation: disarming the bandit formations.

Speaking about his recent evaluation of deputies Sergey Kovalev and Sergey Yushenkov, the defense minister acknowledged it was "harsh."

General Lebed Seeks End to Chechnya 'Reckless Siege'

LD2401220895 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 2000 GMT 24 Jan 95

[Report over video by correspondent F. Tavrovskiy; from the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Tavrovskiy] A Polish Television correspondent interviewed General Aleksandr Lebed, the commander of the 14th Army. Naturally the conversation was about Chechnya. The general forecast that the conflict may turn out to be endless. We have to stop the reckless siege immediately and begin negotiations. On the other hand—the general thinks—there is no need to draw instant conclusions: The single fact that an army, which has not been given a clearly formulated task, cannot take a city, does not mean anything. The world has decided that the [Russian] bear is dead and sighed with relief, but this was a mistake, Lebed says. Russia occupies one-eighth of the world's territory, and is inhabited by 150 million very patient people, who have the blood of Suvorov and Zhukov, who knew thing or two about winning, running in their veins.

Shumeyko Wants Chechnya Weapons Transfer Investigated

LD2401143995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—Federation Council speaker Vladimir Shumeyko sent a letter to Acting Prosecutor General Alexey Ilyushenko on Tuesday urging him to start a criminal investigation into the "illegal transfer of Russian weapons to the Chechen Republic."

"Please, report on the measures taken in this connection by the beginning of the next session of the Federation Council, to be held on February 6," says the letter, which Interfax has a copy of.

The decision to send such a request to Ilyushenko was taken by the Federation Council on January 19.

Investigation Ordered Into 1992 Chechnya Arms Transfer

LD2401183495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1734 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—Acting Russian Prosecutor-General Aleksey Ilyushenko has ordered the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office to investigate the handover of arms and other military materiel to the Chechen regime in 1992, the Prosecutor-General's Office information center said.

The suspected offenses are exceeding and abuse of authority.

Democratic, Patriotic Forces Back Yeltsin on Chechnya

LD2101182195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1722 GMT 21 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 21 (INTERFAX)—The Assembly of National Democratic and Patriotic Forces supports President Yeltsin's attitude to Chechnya and calls for preserving the multinational Russian state, speakers said at the first congress held by the politico-public movement in Moscow on Saturday.

Formed last year, the assembly involves regional organizations from 28 areas of Russia. It includes the Union of Reserve Officers, the National Aviation Association, the Assembly of Democratic Forces of the North Caucasus, the Union of Search Units, and the like.

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The congress decided to gather Chechen elders, leaders of public movements, heads of national communities and religious leaders for a conference to gain national reconciliation and accord in Chechnya. Its resolution points to the need to grant the conference the status of permanent national representation capable of forming constitutional government bodies in Chechnya.

A major task of the conference is to conduct elections to Chechnya's government bodies without delay, the document says.

The assembly intends to urge the Russian government to speed up the return of refugees in order to stop the malicious rumors that another deportation of Chechens is possible.

S. Kovalevlev Chairs Roundtable on Chechnya

MM2401153395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 4

[Article by Otto Latsis: "Chechen Crisis Reinforces Danger of Totalitarianism"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Chechen crisis is still far from being resolved—perhaps as far today as it ever has been. But the course of political events in Russia connected with this war insistently demands analysis of the new strategic situation. And there is already plenty of real material for such an analysis. One of the first public debates on the subject of where we are now and where we are going took place 21 January at a "roundtable" session led by Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev and the well-known rights defender Yuriy Orlov.

Into the Conflagration?

Rights defender Sergey Grigoryants headed his speech with these words—"Into the Conflagration." "I blame myself for being involved in the mass murders that have begun in Chechnya," he began his speech. "And I blame everyone present. I blame all of us for disappointing the people's expectations. It was we who forced Yeltsin to begin this monstrous bloodbath." In the speaker's opinion, inactivity and lack of organization on the part of the democratic forces impelled the president to conclude that these cannot be a firm mainstay of authority. "Last year Popov, Yavlinskiy, and many others," S. Grigoryants continued, "following the putsch, in combating which Yeltsin saved their lives and saved Russia from civil war—these people stole his political capital for personal objectives of their own. Not only was this unbecoming, it did not belong to them. True, Gaydar and his team did not do this. But, in setting up his own party of authority, he tore 'Democratic Russia' asunder. He decided to rely on officials who shortly turned their back on him and cast to the will of fate tens of thousands of idealists and romantics who sincerely support democracy. And so here we are in the midst of a conflagration. Well then, can a president who is trying to preserve his authority rely on this kind of team?"

This emotional confession elicited a retort from a number of "roundtable" participants, primarily from Deputies Lev Ponomarev and Gleb Yakunin. In Yakunin's opinion, the main reason for the present crisis of authority is that the president has not recovered from his "Communist AIDS." However, for all S. Grigoryants' exaggerated self-reproach, he is right about one thing—not in vindicating the president but in criticizing the democrats' weaknesses. The collapse of totalitarianism gave rise to a historic opportunity: At one point Russia had virtually no forces interested in preserving the existing situation, everyone wanted change. The question was whose model for the future would win the day. Today the democratic intelligentsia is verging on the point of once again missing an opportunity to build a truly new Russia.

The democrats who won power were not sufficiently businesslike and pragmatic. But how can this statement be squared with S. Grigoryants' other recrimination regarding the attempt to establish an alliance with officialdom? Where are the former rights defenders or scientific staffers to get the ability to govern the state? Democrat Gavriil Popov for instance handed over governance of Moscow to that experienced official Yuriy Luzhkov. Can one doubt that this step protected both Muscovites and the political prestige of democracy from grim ordeals? So, is that the solution to the problem of authority during the reform era?

Regrettably, things are not as clear as they may seem.

When the General Was Still a Captain....

Extract from Gleb Yakunin's speech: "Lieutenant General Trofimov has been appointed chief of the FCS [Federal Counterintelligence Service] Moscow Directorate in place of Savostyanov, who was recently sacked. I knew him when he was still a major in 1980 when he was in charge of my case. A man has been promoted who was tasked with meting out punishment for dissidents. But should I now start campaigning for his dismissal? Of the dozens of investigators whom I encountered he was the most humane, I even thought that he sympathized with me. If he is removed, who will replace him?" At this point the speaker was interrupted by Sergey Kovalev: "I knew Trofimov when he was a captain. He arrested me in 1974."

The audience laughed but the laughter was mirthless. The Chechen crisis has undoubtedly proved to be a crisis for the whole system of authority in Russia. The fact that it came as a surprise to many people, amid apparent well-being, when the hardest problems of Russian reform were on the verge of being resolved means that the path of reform is far more tortuous and far longer than it hitherto seemed. The problem is not of course the president's personal qualities, of which so much is being said, nor even his entourage, whose influence is of course

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tremendous. The problem lies in the state of society itself, which is unable to rid itself overnight of the 70-year disease of totalitarian thinking. A complete cure may occur once the next generation has grown up. But the question is, in what atmosphere will it grow up?

In the view of historian and sociologist Igor Klyamkin, the Chechen crisis has clearly highlighted the problem of Russian statehood. We have seen for ourselves one possible way of resolving this problem, namely on the basis of enforced nationalist ideology. The former Communism will not be restored but the nationalist scenario for the restoration of totalitarianism is a realistic one. Another option (it is not yet barred, but we are now moving away from it) is a strategic accord between various social groups as to the nature of the society that we want to create. The incumbent authority is not ready for strategic decisions, they are bogged down with tactical maneuvers, hence its contradictory and inconsistent nature. We are seeing attempts to combine relics of democracy, in particular, freedom of the mass media, with tough methods and reliance on force. Such attempts open the way still further to the antidemocratic option.

"We are being offered an alternative: Either fight the authorities or ally with them," historian German Diligenskiy said. "I think that the choice is not confined to these possibilities. The democrats are not ready for constructive politics based on all-out rejection of the authorities' actions. There is no point in their representatives quitting government at a time of a continuing policy of economic reform. And, if the president issues the prepared edict on combating fascism, should we really oppose it? We must combine uncompromising criticism of the authorities' monstrous acts with readiness not for support or for an alliance, but for business-like cooperation in democratic reform. And our next task is to find a single democrat candidate in the coming presidential elections. None of those who now aspire to that role are suitable."

And the War Goes On....

Meanwhile the capture of the ruins of the presidential palace in Groznyy, which involved such losses, vividly demonstrated something that people have long been saying, to wit: the futility of the entire offensive operation even from the viewpoint of the interests of the "war party" itself. Dudayev has just ensconced himself in another basement—that is all. The more bombs land on people, the more determined they are to resist, not just in Groznyy but also in rural areas. Sensibly speaking, could one have expected anything else?

But every cloud has a silver lining. The war showed with unprecedented clarity who is who on the Russian political scene. (In this regard, in particular, several speakers harshly criticized Boris Fedorov's article in IZVESTIYA attacking the rights defenders who are condemning human rights violations in the war zone. His claims that rights defenders were not interested in human rights violations prior to this war have been described as out of step with reality). The fact that the war has created an opportunity to debunk imperial doctrine is even more important, so said Aleksandr Bevz, representative of the "Civil Society" Foundation. People saw right on their television screens the meaning of the calls for a "dash" south or anywhere else. The death of thousands of people on both sides for the sake of someone's ambition and political intrigue is in no doubt, but the possibility of using guns and bombs to strengthen Russia's integrity and defend constitutional law and order is increasingly being questioned even by those who initially believed in it.

In the opinion of Aleksandr Daniel ("Memorial" Society) there is no need for the democrats to spend a long time seeking a specific cause to unite them. There is nothing more urgent for Russia than to oppose this war. An immediate cease-fire and the commencement of peace talks are the most important requirement not only for the democrats but also for every true Russian patriot. With whom are negotiations to be held? The answer is obvious: Since a considerable proportion of the people are involved in the war, only talks with the person whom the Chechen people recognize have any practical meaning. And if that is Dudayev, then talks must be held with him. Any other approach exposes reluctance to stop the bloodbath.

It is quite obvious that there are people in Russia's power structures who will try to the last to secure the unwinnable military victory in Chechnya for their own political self-preservation. Thus, Pavel Grachev's recent statements indicate that the defense minister's personal mental state is becoming an separate factor in Russian policy. Back at the start of the campaign he lied easily with a smile as he promised a solution to the problem within two hours. Now his lies are so blatant and malicious that he earned a diplomatic slap in the face from his German counterpart. When listening to him you feel like saying: O, Lord, rid Russia of defenders like Grachev and it will get the better of its enemies itself.

Hence the next question: Which demands on the authorities should the intended new system for relations between the democrats and the authorities include. Sergey Kovalev also broached this problem in his speech. "I was told," he said, "that the authorities are concerned that they were misled by consultants who promised a rapid and bloodless solution to the crisis, yet now they have realized that the crisis is not a Chechen but a Russia-wide crisis. And, in my interlocutors' opinion, the solution is complicated by the present alternative of Yeltsin or Zhirinovskiy. If you look for those responsible for what is happening, at the second or the fifth turn, sooner or later at any rate, the president will pop up. And if you call him to account, then Zhirinovskiy appears as his antipode. Is that what the democratic gentlemen want? Hence the call to look for a soft option. For instance, to declare: Yes, Chechnya has shown that military reform must be speeded up. In the course for young fighters, herenceforth a course in human rights

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will have to be conducted: It is bad to beat a new recruit and likewise to give yourself a free hand to strike people in a city where your unit is based. The question of hands is perfectly plain to me, but what about guns? And will generals young and old be retested in accordance with the course for young fighters?"

Sergey Kovalev voiced the conviction that they all bear repsonsibility for the split among the democrats—and there is no need to seek the prime mover. A constructive solution must be sought. The first thing to do is overcome ambition. If we do not create a common program (making no secret of concrete disagreements) and do not nominate a common candidate for the coming presidential elections, we will be getting a taste of our own medicine.

President's Aide on 'Politicians' Mistakes' in Chechnya

MM2401113795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Sergey Knyazkov: "Georgiy Satarov: "Military Are Currently Rectifying Politicians' Mistakes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] At a news conference in Moscow Friday [20 January], Georgiy Satarov, the Russian president's aide, spoke first and foremost about the annual presidential message to the Federal Assembly now being prepared. He also answered several questions put to him by KRASNAYA ZVEZDA.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] It has recently been thought that Russia has no enemies. But in the past three years a regime has formed in Groznyy which has a powerful military might. It appears that Moscow clearly underestimated Dudayev's capabilities and the danger posed by him.

[Satarov] If you look at the facts then of course there is the impression that this force was underestimated. This is perfectly obvious. And not even so much the volume of this force as its level of skill and organization.

The fact that "this" has been extremely protracted, and that "this" force has been able to grow into "such" a force is, objectively speaking, a serious mistake. But there are just as many objective circumstances here which made it impossible to take tough action against Groznyy earlier. The summer of 1993, for example, with the extremely acute separatist trends and the lack of partnership not only among the federal authorities but also at the federal-regional level.

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] Many people are now reproaching the Army for performing unprofessionally in Groznyy....

[Satarov] One vehement opponent of our previous state and the Soviet Army said that a Soviet soldier is a bad soldier because "he does not know how to shoot at old people and children." His words related to the period of the Great Patriotic War. But today too we know that our great losses in Groznyy are linked specifically with this "negative characteristic" of the Russian soldiers. In this armed confrontation the warring sides undoubtedly find themselves in totally different conditions. And it is perfectly obvious that our servicemen are finding themselves in conditions in which it is difficult or impossible for them to work out who is facing them—gunmen or civilians....

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA] The impression is forming that society sees the Army only as a reactionary force. Journalists and civil rights activists are very outspoken about it....

[Satarov] There are several reasons for this. The first is of a historical nature, if you like. If you remember, the Army was involved in political confrontation even at the dawn of perestroyka. Second, there has been no normal political backup for the Chechen campaign. And third, this is the infantile disorder of liberal ideology in Russia. We will be forced to suffer this "disorder," to become citizens. Then, maybe, we will understand our Army better. And then, maybe, we will understand that it is rectifying the politicians' mistakes as best it can, safeguarding us from even greater evil.

Chechnya Seen Fostering West's 'Enemy Image'

MM2301101695 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 20 Jan 95 Weekend Edition p 3

[Article by Mikhail Shchipanov: "Those Terrible, Terrible Russians. If the Chechen Crisis Did not Exist, It Would Be in the Interests of Some People To Invent It. The Tried and Tested Method of Reaping Political Dividends Is To Paint an Albeit Mythical, But Nevertheless Terrifying Image of an Enemy"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In recent days our neoliberal circles have been breathlessly talking about the inevitable sanctions which the West will slap on Russia because of the bloodshed in Chechnya—promised credits will be canceled, our entry into the Council of Europe will be postponed, the economic treaty with the European Union will be "put on ice." Well, and what would have happened if our troops had not entered a part of our own state territory? The majority of the West's financial commitments to Russia in the past three years have not been fulfilled anyway. The treaty with the European Union could have been signed back in spring 1994, but even in the absence of fighting in Chechnya this document fell through because of Brussels' discriminatory approach. Finally, even before the fighting in the Northern Caucasus began, Moscow was given to understand that our country's entry into the Council of Europe would be postponed. If only they had a pretext...

And so it was that the fighting in Groznyy became for "Russia's friends" simply a pretext for putting the final touches to a scaremongering picture that had been long in the making: "Those terrible, terrible Russians."

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This picture began to be sketched, by degrees, back when the disappearance of the old balance of terror opened up an abyss of unemployment before the Sovietologists and prophets of disaster looming from the East. However, a social demand for their services began to develop in the upper echelons of power. The vacuum created by the absence of an identifiable enemy put in question the entire traditional world system of deterrence and counterbalance. A pamphlet on the disappearance of Russia which appeared during the perestroyka period expressed fairly accurately the essence of the fears over the disruption of the historical continuum. The world model was tumbling down brick by brick.

Meanwhile, almost immediately after the abolition of the Union the keenest noses sensed that the wind from the East was no longer bearing the smell of tank fumes. They began to inculcate in the minds of the Western man in the street the idea of an almost inevitable second invasion from Russia of unfortunates in search of food and clothes, and indeed, looking to take away the jobs of the West Europeans. The seeds of propaganda fell on soil made fertile by decades of talk about the blitzkrieg being prepared by the Soviets. The problem of problems was seriously discussed on television: Would the tidal wave of sausage-gobbling emigres reach Germany, or would it be possible to somehow pin them down in camps for displaced persons on Polish and Czech soil? Cartoons appeared in which the heroes, sitting in their slippers, sighed nostalgically: "Those were the days, when we were only threatened by the Soviet divisions!"

Far-off Russia again threatened—this time with armies of the "barefoot and hungry." And the Western public were invited to pool their efforts to buy them off in the same way as the Roman Empire once bought off the barbarian hordes: Better to dole out a few crumbs now, than to wait for the Russian invasion. Naturally, in Russia itself such interpretations were not in vogue: The visiting missionaries preferred to talk about solidarity with the fledgling Russian democracy. U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher spoke on this subject in the former style only the other day.

However, when the dust from the convoys carrying secondhand clothes to Russia had settled, the true scale of Western aid finally became clear. At the same time the prophets who were on the point of seeing the approaching refugee armies from the towers of Cologne Cathedral and Notre Dame for some reason fell silent of their own accord. But by that time the task had been achieved—the man in the street had again been forced to turn an anxious gaze toward the East. And at the same time the civilized states, who had for many long years censured Moscow for violating the right to freedom of movement, resolutely tightened up their visa regulations for Russians.

One could put an ellipsis here and skip over the well-known "Baltic complaints," first over the Russian military presence in the Baltic countries, and then over the presence of the same on strictly Russian territory—in Kaliningrad Oblast. And finally the indignant outcry over the renaming of cities, again in Kaliningrad Oblast. The apotheosis of our neighbors' disenchantment was defeated ex-President L. Kravchuk's recent remark about his intention to cast Boris Yeltsin aside like a rotten apple if he should visit Kiev. It cannot be ruled out that Leonid Makarovich was hinting to America that separatist Ukraine has no funds left to oppose its mighty neighbor.

It must be said that, following the cessation of talk about the tidal wave, the vacuum created by the absence of a Russian threat did not remain empty for long. Only instead of the hungry, the talk this time was of armed gangs. In short—the "Russian mafia." From the outset the safe term "Russian" [russkaya] was chosen. No matter how many hook-nosed, dark-haired mafiosi the European police captured. They were Russians, and that was that. Nowadays, during the fighting in Groznyy, many analysts are writing movingly that the Western public is pouring out sympathy for the virtually unknown Chechens. Well, how could they know them, seeing that Dudayev's compatriots who have made their mark in the Czech Republic and Germany are counted as Russians, albeit mafiosi.

The Russian competent organs have recently begun to reproach their European colleagues over the fact that, first, even the term "Russian mafia" is fundamentally incorrect—it infringes the ethnic rights of Azerbaijanis and Georgians. And second, the persistent talk of the power of the "Russian mafia" is out of all proportion to its true scale—wouldn't it be better to concentrate on the Sicilian or the Colombian mafia? But that is not the point: Russia, a country in which everything is always wrong, must somehow at least threaten the West, maintaining its historical image. And when some Armenian sent to London by Dudayev murders the Utsiyev brothers there, then once again the talk is of a settling of accounts within the "Russian mafia."

And for this reason it is actually superfluous nowadays to inquire why the bombing of Groznyy upsets the West, while it finds the pictures of the U.S. air strikes against Iraqi cities, which led to the deaths of hundreds of civilians, positively touching. Double standards are double standards. And therefore even the Christmas sermons in many churches in West Europe were devoted to condemnation of the "atrocities" of those Russians, whose aggression and cunning the man in the street has not been allowed to forget, come what may, over all these years. No way! There is no more foolproof way of reaping political dividends than the image of an identifiable enemy. If one does not exist, one can always be invented.

Gaydar on Perils Facing Russia

MM2301144795 Moscow TRUD in Russian 21 Jan 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Knyazev: "Yegor Gaydar: Our Aim Is To Preserve Democracy"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Ivanovo—The arrival in Ivanovo of Yegor Gaydar, deputy of the State Duma and chairman of the "Democratic Choice of Russia" party, gave rise to a varied reaction among the local population, ranging from complete hostility to intense elation. One thing is for sure—Gaydar is still as popular as ever. The crowded halls in which the meetings with the country's former chief reformer were held, and the numerous questions put to him during these meetings were proof of this. Here, I draw the readers' attention merely to those of Gaydar's answers which, it seems, present the greatest interest.

[Unidentified questioner] The country is in a very difficult position today. Do you feel in any way responsible for this?

[Gaydar] Even if I did not, I would not be allowed to forget about this. Every day in parliament I hear talk of "irresponsible Gaydar-style policies" and so on. When I was thrown out of the government at the end of 1992, I thought—now I am not answerable for anything. But this illusion only lasted a few weeks, after which I realized that whatever anybody did in my wake, no matter how stupid, it would, nevertheless, be me who would have to answer.

[Unidentified correspondent] When conducting reforms, did you allow for the fact that the regional leadership and enterprise management bodies were still made up of the old guard?

[Gaydar] It was a grave error on our part that in 1992 we paid insufficient attention to replacing leadership personnel, including at regional level. Do not get me wrong—this would not have been easy. After all, you cannot just invent a new people. If it were possible to start life over again today, then the first thing I would do differently is that I would spend more time on personnel work.

[Unidentified correspondent] The indexation of monetary deposits in the Savings Bank is something which concerns the population, particularly the older generation....

[Gaydar] This is one of the most complex issues. The truth is that the two communist governments in the years after the beginning of perestroyka spent four-fifths of the former USSR's gold reserves. That is why Gorbachev did not begin the reforms in the right way; you see, at the time he should have opened up the safe at the state treasury and shown that it was empty. Before indexing deposits, you have to earn some money.

[Unidentified correspondent] But how can anybody make a go of a business venture when it is being suffocated by exorbitant taxes?

[Gaydar] Taxation in Russia is a real scourge. There are regions where between 50 and 60 different taxes are levied. Incidentally, the lowest taxes are to be found in St. Petersburg, and the highest—in Ulyanovsk Oblast. And I am deeply convinced that the tax police and tax inspectorate are getting fat on this. They have virtually moved out from under state control and they can destroy any enterprise or firm. Sure, you can appeal against fines—but a lawsuit takes several months, and even if they do return the money it will no longer be worth anything.

[Unidentified correspondent] In many postcommunist countries the communists are returning to power. Is this possible in Russia?

[Gaydar] Unfortunately, this cannot be ruled out. The reforms always were imbalanced: If somebody wins, he believes it is all down to his own efforts, but if somebody loses, he is convinced that it is the policy being conducted which is to blame. All of this works in favor of the postcommunist parties. Russia's problem is that the postcommunists in our country are not the same as in, say, Poland, Hungary, or Lithuania. They are not much different from the politicians they replaced. Russian Communists are more dangerous than the ones who were around at the end of the 1980's, because it is the most aggressive segment which remained in the party.

[Unidentified correspondent] Certain politicians are predicting an authoritarian regime for Russia....

[Gaydar] If an authoritarian regime emerges in our country, it will not be a promarket, enlightened authoritarianism but a bloodthirsty abomination with camps, and it will be very dangerous for Russia, for its future. We have one task now, and it is very complex—that is, to preserve democracy.

[Unidentified correspondent] Is this why you are opposed to the impeachment of the president, even though you have condemned his decisions on the Chechen problem?

[Gaydar] Like our party, I was against the president's sending tanks in against his own people, but I am also opposed to replacing a man making tragic mistakes by another who would happily orchestrate bloody crimes. And this danger exists.

[Unidentified correspondent] And yet, you approved of sending tanks into Moscow and firing on the White House?

[Gaydar] Rutskoy and Khasbulatov sent detachments of gunmen to storm City Hall and "Ostankino." What else could we do? Either send peaceful citizens to their deaths, or call in the army.

[Unidentified correspondent] Do you think that the escalation of the Chechen conflict is an attempt by Yeltsin to draw the people's attention away from domestic problems?

[Gaydar] I do not see a single scenario according to which the president might gain something from what is happening in Chechnya. The nationalists, the power structures, and the weapons producers can.... If one of

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the president's advisers persuaded him to take the decision to introduce the Army into Chechnya, then it is very strange advice.

[Unidentified correspondent] How will 1995 unfold in an economic and political context?

[Gaydar] I am not going to make any predictions. Let me remind you: We began 1994 with great hope in the light of the victory of democracy in the streets of Moscow in October. And what happened in fact? By spring, the Communists and Agrarians had put great pressure on the government, and as a result another 10 trillion new rubles were printed. But these enormous resources did not go to develop agriculture but ended up on the money markets. Monetary intervention continues to undermine the economy, because today, when inflation is 15 percent a month and credit rates are hovering beyond 150 percent, only a complete fool would undertake to invest in production. We democrats want to see Russia as a stable and prosperous country. We are convinced that all this can only be brought about by free people, and as such the task of safeguarding human rights must be a priority.

Federation Council's Tuleyev Urges Early Elections

MK2401142095 Moscow NOVAYA YEZHEDNEVNAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 2

[Statement by Amangeldy Tuleyev: "Early Elections!" under general headline: "After the Flag"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amangeldy Tuleyev, Federation Council deputy:

"In Lenin, there is an article entitled "The Fall of Port Arthur." Everything described in it is being repeated in the new spiral [of history]. The regime is rotten, the failure of reforms can be blamed on the war much as the rest of the sins. There is no regional policy, production has already fallen 50 percent, all stabilization is out of the question. Everywhere they are clamoring for elections—what should be done? Declare war—a trick long known to everyone.

"This flag has once again showed all the meanness of the present regime. The main thing is the betrayal of our people. I am especially worried over the fact that in Chechnya the Russian Army is warring with the Union army (Union officers: Lithuanians, Ukrainians, Dniester people—those who were in the army were indeed abandoned like dogs, and there we are reaping the consequences).

".... The sooner we hold early elections for all: State Duma, us—the Federation Council—and president, the better. There is no other way to get out of the crisis, and this should be done as early as March or April. Otherwise, convulsions may now begin, fighting between the Russian Army and the Union army, some government circles with others, one set of businessmen with another set because the conflict is about oil. It is impossible not to see this.

"I think everyone should be indicted: Yeltsin, Dudayev, and all the "power" ministers. They had been warned, they knew what they attempted."

Center To Hold Forum on Regional, Federal Government

LD2401142295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—The Analytical Center, led by Chief of the Russian president's Staff Sergey Filatov, gathered on Tuesday to discuss the distribution of functions between the federal and regional governments.

Filatov told Interfax that the issue had acquired special importance of late. "Manipulating the situation in Chechnya, reactionary forces in individual regions are trying to tear pieces of power away from the federal authorities." "One can't encourage such tendencies, even by silence. These problems must be solved as soon as possible," said Filatov.

He announced that there are two approaches to the distribution of powers between the federal and regional authorities. Some believe that the conclusion of agreements on power sharing should be suspended until the adoption of a corresponding law by the State Duma. Others think that an all-Russia conference should be held on local government and, after it, the drafting of the law should be accelerated.

The Council members decided to hold an all-Russia conference on relations between the federal and local governments. The conference is expected to discuss other issues of controversy as well, including taxes and regional property.

Text of Appeal Adopted by 3d Congress of CPRF

MM2401152395 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 1

[Appeal adopted by Third Communist Party of Russian Federation [CPRF] Congress 22 January 1995: "To Russia's Citizens"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear compatriots!

We appeal to you at this difficult hour for the fatherland. Not since the Battle of Stalingrad has Russia been threatened by a misfortune on a scale equal to the one that is happening today. The ruling regime's policy has not just led the country into an impasse; it has brought it to the brink of a national catastrophe. The tremendous and mighty industry created by many generations of Russians has been ruined. Rapacious privatization has led to mass production stoppages in the country's major enterprises. Tens of thousands of hectares of arable land

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are being neglected, livestock is being slaughtered because there is nothing on which to feed it, and the countryside's machine pool has been ruined. Great science which paved mankind's way into space is being destroyed. The majority of the social gains achieved under socialism have been destroyed. Education, health care, and culture are eking out a pitiable existence.

For the first time since the war the size of Russia's population has fallen in three successive years. The power, which is losing its last mainstays, has plunged the country into fratricidal conflicts. Those who have died in them run to tens of thousands. All this is the result of the supremacy of forces which are profoundly alien to the people and which forced their way into power by means of deception. Today they have trampled on all the democratic gains: Parliament is without rights. The Constitutional Court is inactive, and they are tyring to turn the Army into a punitive organ. The Prosecutor's Office is directly subordinate to the president. There is increasing pressure on the press, radio, and television. Corrupt officials are growing fat, and crime is growing rapidly. The growing process of the country's isolation from the world community is under way: Russia is losing its traditional markets and old friends and allies without acquiring new ones. The country's national interests have become the small change of internal political games.

The time for action has come. The power is trying to convince the people that there is no alternative to what is happening and that there is only the path along which they are dragging us all to the abyss. This is not true.

Russia, a great power of the modern world, had, has, and will have another path. It is now perfectly clear to the overwhelming majority of the people that even that imperfect socialism created by the efforts of several generations of Soviet people was 1,000 times more humane and just than the misshapen system which the present regime is building. An incredibly high price has already been paid for this bitter realization. The time has come to turn this realization by the whole people into the energy of a powerful political action in order to return to the life of our society justice, the joy of honest labor, and confidence in tomorrow, i.e. everything connected with the lofty ideals of socialism. Do not believe them when they tell you that there is no force in the country capable of ensuring progressive and truly democratic development. Such a force does exist. It is the force of a united people, of whom the communists are an inseparable, inalienable part.

Our party is not only waging a struggle, relying on the support of its allies—patriots and internationalists—but also possesses the necessary program for extricating the country from the zone of social disaster.

Our program is a confident look at Russia's future, based on strict scientific knowledge and moral conviction as to the irreversible force of the ideas of justice and fraternity. Our immediate goals are the triumph of people's power, Russia's state unity within the renewed Union of Soviet peoples, civil peace in society, tranquillity and security in every home, and well-being in every family.

Our strategy is to rally progressive patriotic forces capable of removing the antipeople regime from power on a legitimate basis, stopping enmity and chaos, and starting real reforms.

Our allies are the tens of millions of people to whom great Russia is dear, in whom pride in its history and culture lives on, and whose hearts are racked with pain at the sight of its present humiliation and the unprecedented desecration of the memory of many generations of the Russian people.

Our potential is the country's largest political organization, which has absorbed hundreds of thousands of Communists and relies on millions of supporters and on the growing support of working people.

Our hope is for the common sense and cohesiveness of our compatriots and for the honor and conscience of every patriot of Russia.

Our slogan is: Russia. Labor. People's Power. Socialism.

Communists Favor Zyuganov for Presidential Elections

LD2401142795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—The third congress of the Russian Communist Party has decided that party leader Gennadiy Zyuganov is worthy of being nominated presidential candidate and that the major party should stake on its leader.

Zyuganov announced this at a Tuesday news conference in Moscow.

He stressed that the formation of an alliance of forces favoring a strong state is the main task of the party. He said official nomination should be preceded by consultations with current and potential allies of Communists. General Valentin Varennikov is in charge of such consultations.

At the party congress last weekend in Moscow Zyuganov was elected chairman of the Central Committee of the party. The Central Committee has 140 permanent members and 24 alternate members. Its 19 member presidium is a permanently functioning body.

Among allies Zyuganov named the Agrarian Party, the Russian National Union as well as pro-Communist, left-wing and centrist parties.

Asked whether the party of Vladimir Zhirinovskiy qualifies as an ally Zyuganov said: "Sometimes in the morning Zhirinovskiy qualifies but then stops after lunch."

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During his tour last week, Zhirinovskiy, the leader of the Liberal Democrats, announced intentions to run for the presidency.

Appeal Against Zhirinovskiy 'Fascist' Verdict Outlined

MM2301152595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Mikhail Khazin: "General Prosecutor's Office Shares the Viewpoint of IZVESTIYA and Ye. Gaydar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] We have reported that the people's court upheld V. Zhirinovskiy's defamation suit against IZVESTIYA's editorial collective and Ye. Gaydar, and that Moscow City Court allowed this ruling to stand (see IZVESTIYA No. 179 for 17 September 1994 and No. 220 for 16 November 1994). Let us remind readers that the litigant deemed only two expressions in the lengthy article "Gambling on Scoundrels" to be defamatory—"fascist populist" and "the most popular fascist leader in Russia."

The other day Russian Deputy General Prosecutor S. Kekhlerov challenged the judicial resolutions delivered in this case. The appeal will be examined by the Russian Federation Supreme Court Judicial College for Civil Cases.

What arguments were cited in this document?

It was noted that in the article Ye. Gaydar—a politician and scholar—gave a political and ideological characterization of Zhirinovskiy's views, studying them by comparing them with the outlook of other politicians. This was nothing less than the author's exercise of the rights to freedom of thought and speech and to choose, hold, and disseminate any convictions and act in accordance with them—rights guaranteed in the Russian Federation Constitution.

Seconding the arguments in the appeal, the editors sent the Russian Supreme Court their own opinions on the illegality of the rulings adopted earlier.

In particular, the editors are convinced that the expressions contested by V. Zhirinovskiy by no means fall into the category of inaccurate information about him, but are only the opinions and judgment of Ye. Gaydar. And opinions and judgments—as the law says—are not liable to refutation by judicial proceedings. Moreover, in delivering its ruling Moscow City Court did not take account of the conclusion of an eminent scholar—V. Yadov, director of the the Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Sociology—about the presence of fascist ideology and propaganda in V. Zhirinovskiy's works.

Finally, the fact that one of the people's assessors did not agree with the ruling and published a "personal opinion" was also not taken into account.

Foreign Ministry Approves New Nominations

LD2001192095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1630 GMT 20 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 20 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry approved of new nominations today.

Igor Ivanov was appointed state secretary-first deputy Russian foreign minister. Sources at the Russian Foreign Ministry told ITAR-TASS today that his new duties include relations between the diplomatic service and the parliament. The diplomat, 49, has been first deputy Russian foreign minister since January 1994.

He will be assisted by Valentina Matviyenko, who resigned from the post of Russian ambassador to Malta in September 1994. Before her diplomatic career, Matviyenko headed the Soviet parliament's committee for women, mother and child care and family. Being appointed ambassador at large, Matviyenko will become member of the government representation at the Russian Federal Assembly.

Director of the Commonwealth Department Leonid Drachevskiy has been nominated member of the Russian Foreign Ministry Board. He will replace Russian Ambassador to Turkey Vadim Kuznetsov.

Vladimir Grinin has been appointed member of the Russian Foreign Ministry Board. He is heading the Fourth European Department, which is supervising Russian relations with Germany among other things.

Yevgeniy Prokhorov, recently nominated Russian consul general to Strasbourg, has been removed from the post of board member and head of the Ministry's legal department.

Military Issues

Grachev Says 6-7 Generals To Be Fired

LD2401195095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1914 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev said on Tuesday that he is going to sack six or seven generals because they refused to participate in combat actions in Chechnya.

Grachev told a news conference that those generals "are unworthy of service in the Armed Forces", adding that it is up to the Prosecutor's Office whether to institute criminal proceedings against them or not.

The minister said that one the officers in question is Eduard Vorobyov, the deputy commander of ground troops.

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Grachev Comments on Yeltsin Support, Duma Decision

LD2401170295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1629 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Jan—"There is nothing criminal in my actions which could lead to me being considered a minister who is not carrying out his duties," Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian Federation Defense Minister, stated at a news conference today, commenting on the discussion of his role in the State Duma on 25 January.

"I have tried my best for the past two years or more, with the help of my colleagues, to ensure that the Russian Army is ready and capable of combat, with the monetary and personnel resources available," the minister stressed.

He said he would respond calmly to the decision that the State Duma takes. "I think that the president will support me," Pavel Grachev stated.

Grachev Not To Attend Munich Conference

LD2401181495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1642 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev will not attend the future international conference on European security in Munich.

In his answer to an Interfax question Tuesday, he said: "Mr. Ruehe's (German defense minister—IF note) fears that the Russian defense minister will come to Germany are unfounded."

"I was not going to go there. Now is not the time," he remarked.

Grachev made this statement commenting on Ruehe's interview with the Hamburg newspaper BILD. Ruehe said he did "not expect the Russian minister to come to Germany, as was agreed on previously" and described as "unacceptable" Grachev's insults against Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev.

Commenting on growing criticism against him by the media and deputies, Grachev remarked: "I believe that the president supports me. Of course, it is up to the deputies to decide whether I have enough competence to hold my office, but there is nothing criminal in my actions."

Grachev dismissed allegations that Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was unsatisfied with the Russian command's performance in Chechnya.

"Viktor Stepanovich (Chernomyrdin—IF note) has been in the course of all the army's actions and events in Chechnya. Until today, he has not given any negative assessments of the armed forces' activities," he said.

According to Grachev, the armed forces coped with their tasks to disarm "illegal armed formations."

From now on, all military operations in Chechnya will be supervised by the Russian Interior Ministry, since the bulk of criminal groups have been destroyed, he added. The army will support interior troops with aviation, artillery and tanks, if needed.

"If required, the armed forces will block inhabited localities, but interior troops will clear them from militants," Grachev said.

Speaking about his three deputies—Boris Gromov, Georgiy Kondratyev and Valeriy Mironov,—Grachev said they will not be dismissed from the armed forces. The three generals will be offered offices in military or other structures not at a lower level than now, he added.

At the same time, Grachev said he will soon appoint two more deputies to supervise army equipment, peacekeeping and combat training.

Troops' Loyalty Seen Wavering in Wake of Grachev Remarks

MK2401092095 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 1

[Report by Igor Korotchenko under the "Army" rubric with the general heading: "Grachev's Words Backfired on Him. Blood Shed Lifts All Taboos"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Army General Pavel Grachev's harsh statements about Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev and Sergey Yushenkov, chairman of the State Duma defense committee, drew understanding from many Ru sian Army officers despite their fairly cool attitude to the current Russian defense minister. Criticizing the Army's top brass for the pedestrian planning of the operation in Chechnya is one thing; declaring Dudayev's fighters heroes and at the same time describing Russian troops' actions as criminal is quite another.

The Army is fulfilling its constitutional duty in Chechnya, while responsibility for the consequences of using it should be borne by politicians—this is a viewpoint held by an overwhelming majority of servicemen. Kovalev and Yushenkov simply appear to have lost their sense of reality. That Dzhokhar Dudayev is a state criminal, not a fighter for the ideals of independence, is evident. Moreover, political instructors have always been disdained by career officers, so they treat Sergey Yushenkov, former teacher at the Lenin Military-Political Academy, more or less the same as Viktor Anpilov. Appeals to disobey combat orders made by the Working Russia leader, sporting a luxurious sheepskin coat, elicit

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four-letter words from combat officers, just as the smugness of Mr. Gaydar, denouncing the introduction of troops into Chechnya, draws their hatred.

The Russian Army is imbued with the spirit of healthy Russian nationalism; it has gotten sick and tired of crawling away from the sites of its permanent deployment in East Europe and the Baltic states to the hoopla of the world community and kicks from the democratic mass media. Those molding their characters in the Chechen carnage will no longer watch indifferently when politicians sacrifice the Armed Forces to their ideological tenets. They have no authority. Blood that has been shed lifts all former taboos, so the Army will be able to deliver strikes with equal frenzy not only on Groznyy, but also on the Kremlin, if need be. This stern reality will have to be heeded.

The loyalty of the commanders of divisions, separate brigades, and regiments stationed around Moscow will become an urgent need for the current political regime in the very near future. For it is hard to predict the reaction of Moscow Military District troops should a popular general call on them to take up arms. Presently Boris Yeltsin has no more important objective than to achieve manageability of the Army, the Defense Ministry apparatus, and the General Staff. Upcoming reshuffles at the top level of the Russian military leadership only confirm that the Russian Federation president is perfectly aware of that.

Churanov, Solomatin New Deputy Defense Ministers

MM2301122795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 21 Jan 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Appointments"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the changes in the organizational and establishment structure of the Russian Defense Ministry, some new appointments have been made by edict of the Russian Federation president. Colonel General Vladimir Timofeyevich Churanov has been appointed deputy defense minister and chief of rear services and Colonel General Anatoliy Vasilyevich Solomatin has been appointed deputy minister and chief of construction and billeting of forces.

Vladimir Timofeyevich Churanov was born on 22 October 1945 in Nevinnomyssk, Stavropol Kray, the son of a worker. After graduating from the Volsk Military School in 1966 he served in the Group of Soviet Forces in Germany, and, from 1971 through 1976, in the Transabaykal Military District. In 1979, after completing training at a Military Rear Services and Transport Academy command staff department, he was assigned to Kiev Military District. He graduated from the Armed Forces General Staff Military Academy, rose through the rear services hierarchy at army and district level, and in 1992 he was promoted from deputy commander of district for rear services and chief of Moscow Military District Rear Services to chief of the Russian Federation Armed Forces Rear Services.

He is married with one son and one daughter.

Anatoliy Vasilyevich Solomatin was born on 29 August 1939, the son of a peasant, in Shigayevka, Chuchkovskiy Rayon, Ryazan Oblast. In 1962 he graduated from the Pushkino Military Construction and Technical School and in 1969 he graduated from the Higher Military Engineering and Technical School in Leningrad. He served in the Far East Military District. In 1987 he was appointed chief of the Air Defense Forces Main Engineering Directorate. In 1991 he became deputy chief and in 1993 chief of construction and billeting for the Russian Federation Armed Forces. He is an honored Russian Federation construction worker.

He is married with a grown-up daughter.

Federal Assembly

Federal Assembly Chronology: Dec 1994

95P50042

[FBIS Media Note] [Introduction] This FBIS Media Note contains a topical listing of major decisions, discussions, and actions made by or taken on behalf of the Russian State Duma and Federation Council. Further textual material is available in the 1994 editions of the FBIS Daily Report (DR) "Central Eurasia" or in other cited sources. The citation provides DR listings and page numbers or media source and date at the end of each entry. Items that have been entered under more than one topic heading are marked with an asterisk (*). A list of abbreviations and their expansions follows the chronology.

FOREIGN POLICY AND ARMS CONTROL

U.S. and Europe

*23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts statement expressing disagreement with the European Parliament's 22 December resolution on Chechnya; Duma alleges the resolution "runs counter to real facts" and objects to interference in Russian internal affairs (27 Dec 94, 22)

CIS

7 Dec 94 - Council ratifies treaty with Belarus on status of Russian strategic forces stationed in Belarus (8 Dec 94, 15)

7 Dec 94 - Council ratifies accords with Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Turkmenistan on military cooperation, logistic support principles, regulations for use of Russian military facilities, and status of Russian troops in Kyrgyzstan and Turkmenistan (8 Dec 94, 15)

9 Dec 94 - Duma once again rejects an agenda proposal to discuss revision of CIS-founding treaty; on 10

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November the proposal was rejected because Chairman Rybkin felt it was inappropriate for the Russian parliament to speak for Ukraine and Belarus. Duma also rejects discussing the question of Russia's abrogation of the treaty on the formation of the USSR (12 Dec 94, 36)

16 Dec 94 - Council adopts decree "On the Black Sea Fleet" endorsing proposal from Black Sea Fleet officers that the fleet be preserved as a single operational-strategic formation operating "in interests of Russia and Ukraine" (21 Dec 94, 20; 27 Dec 94., 21)

*22 Dec 94 - Upon hearing reports from Council Chairman Shumeyko and Rybkin that former Soviet republics are aiding Ghechen rebels, Duma passes proposal of Deputy Dorovskikh (LDPR) advising former Soviet republics against interference in the internal af fairs of Russia (23 Dec 94, 18)

23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts draft resolution of Deputies Mitrofanov and Mikhaylov (both LDPR) "On Measures To Restore the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus" proposing that a joint session of the Russian and Belarusian legislatures convene to discuss the question of reunification. Resolution strongly supported by LDPR, CPRF, and AP factions; 42 percent of NRP faction reportedly voted for resolution (30 Dec 94, 4)

MILITARY AND SECURITY ISSUES

*23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a motion to meet in early January to consider the question of extra defense spending following the military operations in Chechnya (vote: 248 for) (27 Dec 94, 23)

POLITICAL AND LEGAL ISSUES

Executive Branch Relations

8 Dec 94 - Duma rejects Yeltsin's move to introduce an amendment to Labor Code making 12 December, the day the new constitution was adopted, a public holiday (vote: 110 for) (12 Dec 94, 27)

*9 Dec 94 - During a debate on the second phase of privatization, Duma rejects CPRF's motion to dismiss First Deputy Prime Minister Chubays (vote: 196 for) (12 Dec 94, 35)

9 Dec 94 - Council proposes as a legislative initiative a draft law amending the law on the Prosecutor General's Office; the draft would require the president to introduce a new candidate for Prosecutor General within 30 days if the Council rejects his first nominee; law also stipulates that the Council will appoint an acting prosecutor General from the deputies of the Prosecutor General, that the prosecutor General is accountable to the Council, and that the deputies will be confirmed by the Council on the recommendation of the Prosecutor General (12 Dec 94, 38)

14 Dec 94 - Duma rejects LDPR leader Zhirinovskiy's proposal to send a delegation to visit Yeltsin, who Zhirinovskiy claimed is "cut off" from information about Chechnya (vote: 176-13, 3 abstentions) (RIA, 14 Dec, 94)

15 Dec 94 - Duma rejects for a second time general prosecutor's request to strip Zhirinovskiy of his immunity (vote: 81 for) (16 Dec 94, 33; 19 Dec 94, 23)

16 Dec 94 - Duma passes in the first reading the presidential version of the draft law on presidential elections developed by the Central Election Commission. The draft states that a presidential candidate may be nominated by either an election bloc or by receiving two million voters' signatures of support; a second round of elections between the top two candidates will be held if a candidate does not get a majority of votes in the first round (vote: 312-7, 2 abstentions) (19 Dec 94, 30)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma rejects the proposal of Deputy Rybakov (Russia's Choice) for a confidence vote in Yeltsin over Chechnya; Russia's Choice faction distances itself from Rybakov proposal, saying it should be considered an individual motion (23 Dec 94, 13)

Internal Legislative Issues

7 Dec 94 - Nikolay Travkin of the Democratic Party of Russia steps down as leader of the faction. (8 Dec 94, 19) Earlier, the DPR National Committee confirmed the faction's no-confidence vote in Travkin (KOMMERSANT-DAILY, 15 Nov 94)

7 Dec 94 - Russia's Choice, Yabloko, and parliamentary group Union of 12 December refuse to participate in the afternoon session because of LDPR's Zhirinovskiy's outbursts during the morning session on the situation in Chechnya (8 Dec 94, 20)

7 Dec 94 - Duma repeals the registration of parliamentary group Union of 12 December for not having enough members (vote: 228 for) (8 Dec 94, 20, 32)

11 Dec 94 - Objecting to Deputy Gaydar's (Russia's Choice) opposition to Chechen intervention, Foreign Minister Kozyrev announces his plans to leave "Russia's Choice" faction (12 Dec 94, 26; 14 Dec 94, 13)

22 Dec 94 - Duma fails to confirm the deputy powers of Mavrodi, the head of the failed MMM investment concern, who was elected on 30 October from Moscow's Mytishchi constituency no. 109; action arouses indignation of LDPR deputies who claim that Duma "has no right to discuss" the issue; Rybkin initiates a review of vote's legality (RIA, 22 Dec 94)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma rejects motion by Deputy Ponomarev (Russia's Choice) to hold two more sessions in 1994 because of the situation in Chechnya (27 Dec 94, 23)

Political Parties and Political Life

22 Dec 94 - Duma adopts on second reading draft law "On Meetings, Rallies, Demonstrations, Marches, and

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Picketing"; law allows conducting peaceful activities without prior authorization (RIA, 22 Dec 94)

Judicial and Legal Reform

1 & 6 Dec 94 - Yeltsin nominates for Council's confirmation Constitutional Court candidates Sergey Vitsin, head of a department of the Moscow Higher Militia, and Vladimir Strekozov, deputy head of the Military Academy of Economy, Finance and Law (1 Dec 94, 17); on 5 December the Council's Committee on Constitutional Legislation endorses the nominations (6 Dec 94, 33); on 6 December Council confirms only Strekozov (vote: 100 for), Vitsin received only 78 votes; 90 votes are needed for confirmation (7 Dec 94, 15)

7 Dec 94 - Council rejects law "On the Detention of Persons Suspected and Accused of Crimes," calling unspecified articles "unacceptable" (8 Dec 94, 32)

ECONOMIC POLICY

Budget, Taxes, and Banking

5 Dec 94 - Council hearing on tax reform bill turns down tax economist Sergey Shatalov's submission; Shatalov's plan is one of five main versions; participants in the hearing propose to set up a conciliation commission to formulate a new bill based on best parts of the five proposals (7 Dec 94, 74)

7 Dec 94 - Council rejects law "On the Budget of the State Employment Fund for 1994"; Council deputies propose that regions' share of financing the Employment Service be reduced from 20 percent to 10 percent (8 Dec 94, 32)

8 Dec 94 - Duma adopts law "On State Credits Extended by the Russian Federation to Foreign States, Their Legal Entities, and International Organizations"; law is the result of a compromise between the Duma and the president, who returned the draft to the deputies with amendments; the law requires the government to submit together with a draft budget for the next year a program for foreign credits and loans (8 Dec 94, 33)

9 Dec 94 - Duma overrules Yeltsin's veto on the law "On Addenda and Amendments to the Russian Law on Income Tax Levied on Natural Entities" (vote: 3-26 for) (12 Dec 94, 35)

*9 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a resolution "On the Kaliningrad Region" urging Yeltsin to consider in the immediate future the situation in the Russian Kaliningrad region and proposing additional financial compensation to be included in the draft 1995 budget (12 Dec 94, 36)

16 Dec 94 - Duma adopts on third reading draft law "On Restoring and Protecting Citizens' Savings"; law sponsored by Zorkaltsev (CPRF), Lipitskiy (Social Democrat), Glazyev (DPR) establishes state obligations for restoring citizens' savings lost after price liberalization (19 Dec 94, 28)

16 Dec 94 - Duma rejects amendments to tax legislation proposed by government (20 Dec 94, 14)

21 Dec 94 - Minister of Finance Panskov briefs Duma on prognosis for 1995's social and economic development; claims domestic output will amount to 930-1000 trillion rubles, inflation will stand at 2.5- 3 percent a month, industrial production to drop 10-14 percent, minimum monthly wage to increase to 34440 rubles on 1 March; also speaks on the need for a revision of the tax system and the escalating cost of the Chechen conflict (22 Dec 94, 21)

21, 22, 23 Dec 94 - On 21 December Duma rejects on first reading the draft 1995 budget and sends it to a conciliation commission; on 22 December Duma again rejects draft, CPRF opposes the plan which projects a 10 to 15 percent production decline (22 Dec 94, 21); on 23 December Duma adopts budget on first reading (vote: 230-127, 2 abstentions) (23 Dec 94, 13). According to SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA (27 Dec 94), CPRF unanimously voted against budget; LDPR unanimously voted in favor; Yabloko and AP also against it; Russia's Choice supported it; NRP split, with 39 in favor and 11 against.

22 Dec 94 - Duma adopts on second reading the draft federal law "On Amending the Law of the RSFSR on the Central Bank of the RSFSR (Bank of Russia)"; law states that candidate for post of Central Bank chairman should be submitted to Duma within one month of law coming into effect and candidates to the bank's board of directors should be submitted within a month following the chairman's nomination (RIA, 22 Dec 94)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a motion to meet early in January to consider the question of extra defense spending following the military operations in Chechnya (vote: 248 for) (27 Dec 94, 23)

Privatization and Bankruptcy Issues

7 & 9 Dec 94 - On 7 December Duma rejects a resolution "On the Results of the First Stage of Privatization of State and Municipal Enterprises"; privatization committee proposes that the results of the voucher privatization be recognized as "unsatisfactory" and that the government create a joint working group with the Duma to finalize a new national program for post-voucher privatization of state and municipal enterprises (8 Dec 94, 29); on 9 December Duma passes the resolution (vote: 241 for) and includes in it a recommendation to Yeltsin to suspend his edict to begin the second part of the privatization program pending the adoption of a law on privatization (12 Dec 94, 35; 22 Dec 94, 23)

*9 Dec 94 - During a debate on the second phase of privatization, Duma rejects CPRF's motion to dismiss First Deputy Prime Minister Chubays (vote: 196 for) (12 Dec 94, 35)

Agriculture

14 Dec 94 - Duma votes to discuss measures to overcome the crisis in agribusiness at an upcoming session (RIA, 14 Dec 94)

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RUSSIAN REGIONAL ISSUES

6 Dec 94 - Duma's Committee on Nationalities (sic) issues a statement on Chechnya criticizing federal authorities for not having a "sound ethnic policy" and also condemning "irresponsibility" of Chechen leaders; committee supports a negotiated settlement (6 Dec 94, 32)

6 Dec 94 - Duma votes to invite Chechen leader Dudayev and Chechen parliamentary representatives to a closed debate on Chechnya (vote: 236-6, 3 abstentions); Council's vote to invite Dudayev to its debate fails (vote: 83 for) (8 Dec 94, 31)

6 & 9 Dec 94 - Council rejects Yeltsin's decree of 2 December "On Introduction of the State of Emergency on Part of Territories of North Ossetia and Ingushetia" (vote: 83 for); deputies' rejection was based on the non-fulfillment of previous decrees; deputies plan to create a conciliation commission to submit individual provisions of the decree to Yeltsin for coordination (7 Dec 94, 23; 15 Dec 94, 46); on 9 December Council endorses the decree; a special permanent Council commission to oversee the situation in both republics is to be set up (12 Dec 94, 36; 15 Dec 94, 36)

7 Dec 94 - Council discusses Chechnya; decides the defense minister, interior minister, and director of the federal Counterintelligence Service must participate in further discussions (8 Dec 94, 36)

8 Dec 94 - Council passes a resolution recommending that the Prosecutor General's Office investigate the actions of those involved in air strikes on Groznyy and determine responsibility (9 Dec 94, 21)

8 Dec 94 - Duma discusses Chechnya in a closed session (9 Dec 94, 20)

8 Dec 94 - Council issues statement denouncing use of violence to solve Chechen conflict; urges a political settlement proceeding from democratic expression of the will of Chechnya's ethnic entities and the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation (RIA, 8 Dec 94; 14 Dec 94, 22)

*9 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a resolution "On the Kaliningrad Region" urging Yeltsin to consider in the immediate future the situation in the Russian Kaliningrad region and proposing additional financial compensation to be included in the draft 1995 budget (12 Dec 94, 36)

12 Dec 94 - Yeltsin issues a statement to Assembly on plans for Chechnya; urges deputies to formulate their own conditions for negotiations; says a joint framework of negotiations with the Assembly is necessary (12 Dec 94, 15)

13 Dec 94 - Duma's Council backs Yeltsin's 1 December edict extending the deadline for surrendering arms in Chechnya to 15 December (13 Dec 94, 24)

13 Dec 94 - Duma passes decree "On the Proclamation of Amnesty for Persons Who Have Participated in Illegal Actions in Connection with Armed Conflicts in the North Caucasus" (vote: 292-3, 6 abstentions) (14 Dec 94, 21; 15 Dec 94, 29, 50)

13 Dec 94 - Duma adopts decree "On the Situation in the Chechen Republic, a Subject of the Russian Federation, and Measures for Its Political Settlement" (15 Dec 94, 28)

14 Dec 94 - Duma tasks Deputy Speaker Kovalev and Security Committee head Ilyukhin to draft a proposal requiring the government to submit official information on casualties in Chechnya (14 Dec 94, 22)

14 Dec 94 - Duma does not support proposal of Deputy Yakunin to demand that Yeltsin dismiss Minister of Nationalities and Regional Policy Yegorov; Yakunin says that Yegorov was a key figure in the decision to use force in Chechnya (RIA, 14 Dec 94)

14 Dec 94 - Duma approves on first reading the draft federal law "On General Principles of the Organization of Bodies of State Power in Subjects of the Russian Federation"; law would allow subjects to establish either a parliamentary or a presidential system of government (15 Dec 94, 30)

15 Dec 94 - Duma rejects former Russia's Choice member Pamfilova's proposal to suspend the session and have all deputies travel to Chechnya (vote: 73 for); Duma also rejects Deputy Zlotnikova (Yabloko) proposal for women deputies to begin a protest against the war in Chechnya (vote: 118 for) (15 Dec 94, 29)

16 Dec 94 - Shumeyko proposes a cease-fire in Chechnya beginning at 1500 on 16 December and the setting up of a conciliation commission (16 Dec 94, 32)

16 Dec 94 - Duma rejects discussion of a resolution on Chechnya that endorsed Yeltsin's initiative for a 48-hour cease-fire (vote: 121 for) (19 Dec 94, 30)

16 Dec 94 - Council's Defense and Security Committee passes a decision of no-confidence in Shumeyko for failing to inform deputies about the planned introduction of forces into Chechnya (19 Dec 94, 31)

17 Dec 94 - Council approves resolution on Chechnya proposing that Yeltsin take measures to put an immediate end to combat operations, accelerate at a higher level political talks, and address Council; resolution also supports setting up an oversight commission for constitutional rights while order is restored, and instructs appropriate committees to draw up proposals to regulate the use of the Armed Forces on the territory of Russia (19 Dec 94, 19, 29)

21 Dec 94 - Duma refuses to examine Yabloko-sponsored draft law "On Delegations to Settle the Armed Conflict in the Chechen Republic"; Yavlinskiy, head of Yabloko, stated that the refusal to even put the question to a vote has "turned out to be a political trick"; Duma Press Service report referred to Duma resolutions on Chechnya as a way to settle the crisis and stated there was no need to the adopt law (21 Dec 94, 19)

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22 Dec 94 - Yeltsin turns down a Duma invitation to attend a 24 December joint session on Chechnya (23 Dec 94, 7)

*22 Dec 94 - Upon hearing reports from Council Chairman Shumeyko and Rybkin that former Soviet republics are aiding Chechen rebels Duma passes proposal of Deputy Dorovskikh (LDPR) advising former Soviet republics against interference in the internal affairs of Russia (23 Dec 94, 18)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts statement expressing disagreement with the European Parliament's 22 December resolution on Chechnya; Duma alleges the resolution "runs counter to real facts" and objects to interference in Russian internal affairs (27 Dec 94, 22)

23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a proposal by Deputy Aparina (CPRF) to draw up an appeal to Yeltsin requesting a moratorium on conducting military operations in Chechnya (vote: 257 for); Duma also supports Aparina's proposal to invite heads of the power structures to speak at weekly Government Hour session (23 Dec 94, 13)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma rejects the proposal of Deputy Rybakov (Russia's Choice) for a confidence vote in Yeltsin over Chechnya; Russia's Choice faction distances itself from Rybakov proposal, saying it should be considered an individual motion (23 Dec 94, 13)

23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a statement proposed by Chairman of the Security Committee Ilyukhin (CPRF) that opposing sides in the Chechen conflict introduce an immediate moratorium on all combat actions and return to negotiations (vote: 228-38, 3 abstentions); Duma also adopts a statement expressing condolences to families of those who died on both sides of the fighting (27 Dec 94, 22, 36)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma adopts a motion to meet early in January to consider the question of extra defense spending following the military operations in Chechnya (vote: 248 for) (27 Dec 94, 23)

*23 Dec 94 - Duma rejects motion by Deputy Ponomarev (Russia's Choice) to hold two more sessions in 1994 because of situation in Chechnya (27 Dec 94, 23)

23 Dec 94 - Duma Press Service issues an official summation of the Duma's position on Chechnya: declares that Chechnya's status as a republic within Russia is not up for discussion; delineates parties to the talks; defines terms of the talks to include a cease-fire, disarmament, supervised elections; and need of oversight commissions (30 Dec 94, 9)

29 Dec 94 - Deputy Chairman of the Council's Budget and Finance Committee Titkin announces the Council's Security and Defense Committee's request to include on the January agenda a no-confidence motion in Shumeyko was decided by a majority vote during a legitimate committee meeting and will be honored (30 Dec 94, 9)

MEDIA ISSUES

9 Dec 94 - Council rejects draft law on information, information technology, and data protection on grounds that certain clauses were unacceptable; asks Duma to agree to establishment of a commission to make revisions (9 Dec 94, 22; 13 Dec 94, 24)

14 Dec 94 - Duma adopts proposal of Deputy Aparina (CPRF) to put the TV program "Parliamentary Hour" back on the air; plans to approach Yeltsin with the proposal to air Duma coverage on the first and second TV channels (RIA, 14 Dec 94)

15 Dec 94 - Duma passes for a second time the law "On the Procedure of the Coverage of the Activity of State Authorities by the State Mass Media" after removing Article Four, which had prohibited state bodies from sponsoring newspapers; Duma previously passed the document in its entirety, but it was turned down by the Council and vetoed by Yeltsin (16 Dec 94, 33)

22 Dec 94 - Duma passes on first reading an advertising bill establishing limits on airtime for commercials and prohibiting radio and TV shows from advertising cigarettes and alcohol (RIA, 22 Dec)

Abbreviations
AP - Agrarian Party
CIS - Commonwealth of Independent States
CPRF - Communist Party of Russian Federation
DPR - Democratic Party of Russia
LDPR - Liberal Democratic Party of Russia
NRP - New Regional Policy
USSR - Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

State Duma Support for Grachev's Dismissal in Doubt

LD2401172295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—Duma support of Grachev dismissal suggested by the Women of Russia faction much depends on the stand of major Duma factions, including Communists, Agrarians, Liberal-Democrats and a large deputy group of New Regional Policy.

"We will vote against the proposal," Aleksandr Vengerovskiy, a Liberal-Democratic leader, told ITAR-TASS.

Viktor Zorkaltsev, a leader of the Communist faction, was less categorical. He said that Duma Communists are "not prone to follow Yushenkov recipes" as regards Grachev's correspondence to his post. Zyuganov associates think that the problem of defence minister must be tackled in the light of the Chechen issue. They will insist on discussing this problem only after the Duma commission for investigation into reasons and circumstances of the Chechen conflict estimates the actions of the federal authorities.

"We would like to discuss the problem of defence minister with due account of all conflict aspects and leave numerous dislikes aside," stressed Zorkaltsev.

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Many members of the New Regional Policy group do not share the stand of Women of Russia who submitted a draft resolution on Grachev's dismissal to the Duma. It is not excluded that the draft recommending the prime minister to raise the dismissal question to the president will be discussed at a Duma plenary on January 25.

Even the Choice of Russia faction known for its negative attitude to the presence of federal troops in Chechnya is not unanimous about the Grachev issue. "It is quite possible that a dozen and a half of my colleagues will not support the proposal of the Women of Russia," said Choice of Russia member and Deputy Chairman of the Duma Security Committee Viktor Mironov.

Pavel Grachev has been accused by Duma deputies of breakdown of the Armed Forces. At that time he managed to keep his post. Today results are difficult to predict, but one thing is clear - the Duma does not have a common opinion of Grachev dismissal.

State Duma Rejects Draft 1995 Federal Budget

LD2501121795 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1136 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 25 Jan—The State Duma today rejected at its second hearing the main points of the draft federal budget for 1995. For its adoption only eight votes more were needed.

The version of the main points drafted jointly by the Duma Budget Committee with the Government envisaged spending of 242.9 trillion rubles and revenue of 169.8 trillion rubles. The deficit ceiling was fixed at a total of 73.1 trillion rubles, or 30.1 percent of the federal budget expenditure.

Before the vote, the Communist and Agrarian factions declared that they would not support the main points of the budget, because during its drafting their notes and proposals of principle were not taken into account.

Russia's Choice Split Over Gaydar Stance on Chechnya Issue

LD2401131295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1233 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—The major democratic "Russia's Choice" faction in the State Duma got split over the attitude towards the Chechen conflict and the position of its leader Yegor Gaydar who opposed the use of force in the separatist republic.

"Far from all members of the faction share the position of Yegor Gaydar who denounced the sending of federal troops to Chechnya", Viktor Mironov, member of the faction and deputy chairman of the Duma Committee on Security, told TASS on Tuesday.

He stressed that he himself supported the use of force as "the only acceptable variant in the existing situation".

According to Mironov, "Russia's Choice" member Valentin Lednev had already left the faction in protest against Gaydar's position. "I think this is not the last case", Mironov said and qualified Gaydar's opposition to the use of force in Chechnya as "political shortsightedness".

He warned the faction leader that his position would diminish his chances at the upcoming parliamentary and presidential polls. "Messages which I receive from voters leave no doubt that the 'Russia's Choice' is gradually losing its electorate", Mironov said and explained that the voters "cannot understand many things in the position of the faction" and, in particular, why it kept silent when the regime of Chechen separatist leader Dzhokhar Dudayev was violating the rights of the Chechen population for three years.

The "Russia's Choice", which has been until recently an active supporter of President Boris Yeltsin's actions, distanced itself from the military campaign in Chechnya. Sergey Yushenkov, the chairman of the Duma Defence Committee, was especially active in denouncing the use of force which resulted in numerous casualties.

Defence Minister Pavel Grachev has recently fired back and branded Yushenkov as a "sleazebag".

Former PRAVDA Editor Appointed Duma Vice Speaker

LD2501125195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1213 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 25 (INTERFAX)—The State Duma, the Russian parliament's lower house, elected former editor-in-chief of the newspaper PRAVDA, Gennadiy Seleznev (the Communist faction), to the post of the Duma's vice-speaker.

Seleznev, 48, was chairman of the State Duma committee for information policies and communication. The latest congress of the Russian Communist Party elected him a member of the central committee.

Vice-Chairman of the Communist faction Viktor Zorkaltsev, who introduced Seleznev's candidacy, said that Seleznev would be in charge of "media coverage of State Duma work."

Seleznev's candidacy was approved in a 295 to 1 vote with one abstention.

The vice-speaker's post became vacant after former vice-speaker Valentin Kovalev, also a communist, was appointed to the post of minister of justice.

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Duma Passes Tighter VAT, Profit Tax Laws; Scraps Tax Breaks

MK2401135095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 24 Jan 95 p 2

[Report by Natalya Varnavskaya, Yevgeniy Timofeyev under the "Tax Policy" rubric: "Russia Will No Longer Have Tax Havens"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The current review of Russian tax legislation is unlikely to ease the tax burden. This was confirmed by new laws on profit taxes and value-added taxes [VAT], which were passed by the State Duma at its evening session 21 January. Federal legislators effectively eliminated Russia's internal tax havens. Moreover, with the profit tax rate virtually unchanged, they abolished value-added tax breaks for food imports and retained the excess-wage tax for another year.

Under the law adopted by the State Duma, from now on companies' separate structural branches will have to pay profit taxes on territories where they are actually located in accordance with the rates established there. At the same time, the tax revenue will be entered in the budgets of relevant Federation components in proportion to the companies' payrolls and the value of their fixed capital.

Quite understandably, the first to suffer from such novelties will be Russia's "offshore zones"—Kalmykia and Ingushetia—and also companies that have already benefited from favorable tax climates in these republics.

The new law retained the excess-wage tax, which will continue to be levied on wages exceeding six times the monthly minimum wage. The law promised to abolish this tax starting 1996, however.

Another fairly important novelty: from now on enterprises with foreign investment will have to pay profit taxes according to the same procedure as wholly Russian-owned companies.

At the same time, the tax rate remained unchanged—13 percent to the federal budget and not more than 22 percent to regional budgets. Moreover, for bourses, brokers, banks, insurance companies, and middlemen, the rate was even increased to 30 percent.

Changes were also made to the procedure for paying VAT: tax rates were left unchanged, but now the 10-percent rate will no longer cover all foodstuffs (except for those subject to excise duties) but will be applied selectively according to a special list. Furthermore, foodstuffs and goods for children imported in Russia will be taxed according to general principles.

There is another important amendment, which directly affects foreign economic activity: now the VAT paid by foreign enterprises in Russia will be deducted and paid to the budget by their Russian contacting parties.

The new laws extend the general procedure for defining taxable turnover to trade operations (except for retail trade and auctions)—it will be calculated on the basis of prices charged for goods being sold, without including VAT in them.

These amendments to the law on value-added tax, if they go into force, would amount to a gross violation of the Constitution (in a number of cases they envision an erosion of the taxpayer's well- being). For this reason the law is planned to go into force 1 April of this year. Amendments to the law on profit tax, despite everything, are due to become effective from the beginning of this year.

Yushenkov Comments on Grachev, OSCE Conference

LD2501102595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian at 1742 GMT on 24 January carries a report noting that the FRG authorities have described Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev's attendance of the OSCE conference of defense ministers in Munich on 3-5 February as undesirable. The statement by the FRG authorities came after Grachev criticized State Duma Defense Committee chairman Sergey Yushenkov and Russian Federation Human Rights Commissioner Sergey Kovalev.

Correspondent Alena Stepenanko asks Yushenkov to comment on the situation. Yushenkov says:

"The sharp reaction, even though connected with remarks by Grachev, seems to me is in effect only an immediate cause in this case. And this immediate cause, even though a very serious one, unfortunately, is a general reflection of the dissatisfaction with what is taking place in Russia not only with regard to the Chechen Republic, but also with regard to one of the most important areas of the transformation of society, the reforms in this society. These reforms really aren't there. In a certain sense, this is vary harsh pressure, if you like, on the president. I think that, in the final analysis, after this conference on 3-4 February, especially after the address by Sergey Adamovich Kovalev in Strasbourg, the reaction will nevertheless be harsher.

"But I will try to analyze the situation which has now taken shape in Russia from the point of view of the accords and international obligations on ensuring security in Europe. You see the problem of Chechnya today is not purely a problem of the internal affairs of Russia and not only from the point of view of human rights. It is not, even from the point of view of the provisions which the members of the OSCE have signed and in this sense some kind of mechanisms are needed to force the member states of the OSCE carry out these obligations.

"I should also like to express my opinion on the nature of the reforms which are taking place in our armed forces - or rather which are not taking place - in accordance with the Partnership for Peace program. Here too there are very many problems. The program has been signed, but

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many of its provisions are not being fulfilled, for instance with regard to the openness of the military budget, the openness of military planning and so on."

No further processing planned.

Regional Affairs

Grachev Says Armed Forces Tasks in Chechnya Completed

LD2401154595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1505 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ostanin]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 Jan—The Russian Armed Forces fully completed the set tasks with regard to disarming the bandit formations in Chechnya by 1500 on 20 January. The main groups of militants have been destroyed. Defense Minister Army General Pavel Grachev stated this at a news conference today at the Russian Defense Ministry.

He said that it would now be expedient to hand over the responsibility for further military action in Chechnya to the Russian Interior Ministry, which would complete the disarmament of bandit formations both in Groznyy and in other areas.

The minister believes that individual Army subunits, including artillery, tank, Air Force, and antiaircraft defense subunits, could be involved in the concluding stage of the disarmament operation.

Pavel Grachev plans to voice his proposals on this at a session of the Russian Security Council on Wednesday 25 January. The experience of the military action conducted in Chechnya, the defense minister reported, will also be considered and summarized at the end of January at a working sitting of Russia's generals, commanders of military districts, and representatives of the military academies in Moscow.

In the minister's opinion, there are no population centers in Chechnya where bandit formations could mount serious resistance to the Federal forces. For example, in Gudermes, Pavel Grachev noted, a council of elders is in operation, which, during a meeting with Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, agreed not to allow bandit formations into the town. The minister's assessment is that the town of Shali is not reinforced either. The latter served as a rear base for bandits, supplying them with weapons and foodstuffs. The town of Bamut, situated in the foothills in the southwest of the republic, and where militants are still being trained, needs to be sealed off by Army units, the minister believes.

Government Press Service on Situation in Groznyy

LD2401165595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1636 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow January 24 TASS—The Russian Government press service has circulated the following report:

"According to a report of the advanced group of the Russian Government press service, the Chechen situation has not been considerably changed. The federal troops continued to repulse attacks of small groups of militants and kept their positions within the past 24 hours. Omon units combed Groznyy in the area of Staropromyslovskoye highway and streets of Mayakovsky, Astrakhanskaya, Kopernik, Mramornaya, Balashevskaya and 4th line.

"The areas of Alkhan-Chursky canal, Sadovaya Street, 1st, 3rd and 4th town neighbourhood units and the populated locality of Proletarskaya are being cleaned of militants.

"The aviation carried out reconnaissance, transported troops, cargo, wounded and sick.

"The Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations has delivered 71 tonnes of food to Groznyy and evacuated 15 wounded civilians to Mozdok within the past 24 hours. The federal troops and interior units are getting ready to form commandant zones in Groznyy analogous to territorial division of the town. The garrison procurator's office is being formed.

"According to counter-intelligence information, the federal troops are opposed in Groznyy by autonomous groups of militants which are almost lacking interaction. As a rule, the militants grow active at night. Unidentified persons destroyed an Ural military truck with grenade launcher shots on January 23 in Mozdok. Representatives of the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers picketed a check point of the Mozdok air base on the same day.

"Representative of the Vainakh Chechen public movement Z. Garabov arrived in Mozdok from Moscow a day before, bribed three women and tried to provoke aggressive actions of the rally participants.

"According to military reconnaissance, Chechen volunteers and the illegal armed units reinforced the eastern and south-eastern Groznyy sections.

"Some representatives of the Chechen clergy are calling on local residents for terrorist acts against servicemen and blocking of military columns.

"According to the Russian Ministry for Health Care and Medical Industry, medial aid has been rendered to 2,620 patients, including 871 wounded and 1,749 sick.

"Some 100 kilos of equipment for forensic medical examination have been prepared for dispatch to Mozdok.

"Refugees are being vaccinated. A total of 50 liters of diphtherial anatoxin and 30,000 dozes of poliomyelitis vaccine have been prepared for dispatch to Chechnya. The epidemiological situation is normal.

"The recruitment of physicians and nurses for work in Chechnya and restoration of local health care system goes on."

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Interior Troops Continue To Push 'Militants' Out of Groznyy

LD2501091495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0844 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Groznyy January 25 TASS—Russian interior troops continued to push Chechen militants out of Groznyy on Wednesday, while army units were not engaged in the operation. However, they fired back when attacked by the militants.

Helicopters flew on Tuesday over Chechen settlements where militants are still staying and used loudspeakers to talk them into surrendering weapons.

The military prosecutor's office began to work in Groznyy on Wednesday and its main task is to observe lawfulness in the armed forces. It works in close contact with the prosecutor's office of Chechnya which has been reestablished and is now headed by Bek Baskhanov who was appointed by the opposition Provisional Council of Chechnya.

Groznyy Shelling Continues

LD2501082495 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0700 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The artillery bombardment of Groznyy continued this morning. Yesterday the federal troops managed to take several strategic sites in the Chechen capital.

Federal Troops Reportedly Tighten Ring Around Groznyy

LD2401172095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1637 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maisigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Ingushetia January 24 (TASS)—The federal troops are tightening the ring around the Chechen capital Groznyy. On Tuesday, they took under their control a strategic bridge over the river Sunzha, five kilometres south-west from the former presidential palace.

The Chernorechye district is under constant shelling and is factually closed for any traffic. Chernorechye's inhabitants are abandoning their homes as quickly as possible.

Radio Reports 'Mass Exodus' From Southern Groznyy Suburbs

LD2501110295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0900 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Correspondents report a mass exodus of people from the southern suburbs of Groznyy. At present no less than 10,000 civilians find themselves in extremely harsh conditions.

Chechen Minister Urges Islamic States To Pressure Russia

MM2501083695 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 jan 95 p 8

[Report by 'Abdallah al-Hajj: "Chechen Foreign Minister Tells AL-HAYAH: Russia Would Reconsider Its Calculations If Subjected to Islamic Pressures"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Jeddah—Chechen Foreign Minister Shamsuddin Yusef has called on the international community to hasten to send medical and humanitarian aid to his country. He condemned the continuing "brutal aggression" on unarmed civilians throughout Chechnya and the capital, Groznyy. He stressed the commitment of the popular resistance in his country to fight until their just demands are achieved.

In an interview conducted over the telephone by AL-HAYAH the Chechen foreign minister urged Islamic states to exert direct and indirect diplomatic pressures on Russia to force it to recognize the legitimate rights of the Chechen people. He said that "all the Islamic peoples are interacting with the Chechen people's struggle, and Islamic governments should follow the example of their peoples and prove their interest in what is happening in our country so that the situation will not become similar to the situation in Bosnia."

He pointed out that the Russians have vital interests in the Islamic world. "If they feel that their aggression against the Chechens is going to affect their interests, they will reconsider their calculations." He spoke about the fighting, which has intensified since Sunday evening and turned into direct confrontations between Russian soldiers and Chechen fighters with the aim of controlling the center of the capital, Groznyy. He said: "Our forces have retaken the railroad station, the central market, and two strategic government buildings."

Yusef pointed out that Russian forces have expanded their attacks to include villages in the countryside, especially the strategic village of Bomut between the capital and the mountains, which was bombarded by artillery and rockets throughout the day yesterday. Meanwhile helicopters raided it and the nearby village of Samashki.

The Chechen foreign minister commended the aid provided by Islamic relief associations. However, he pointed out that "this aid remains meager compared with the needs caused by the huge devastation resulting from the Russian bombardment."

He criticized several European states which have not openly announced their condemnation of the aggression. He urged the United Nations to intervene "to stop the annihilation of a people being subjected to brutal massacres for the second time in their history at the hands of Russian forces."

The Chechen minister expressed his amazement at the world's attitude of a spectator toward the massacres to

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which Muslims are subjected in the Balkans and Chechnya. He said that, if this aggression was against other peoples, the world would have risen to support them. He noted that sitting at the negotiating table with the Russians would not halt the popular resistance's actions. He said: "Politicians have their task, and fighters have theirs." He stressed that mountain warfare and popular resistance are continuing in all districts of the capital, Groznyy, until liberation is achieved.

Deputies Witness Bombing of Ingush Settlement

LD2401205795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2024 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran January 24 TASS—"What is being done in Chechnya has nothing in common with restoration of constitutional order. It is a real war, genocide against a people," deputy of the Russian Federation Council and deputy chairman of the Committee for Affairs of the Federation, Federal Treaty and Regional Policy Pavel Shteyn told ITAR-TASS in the settlement of Arshty, the Ingush Sunzhenskiy region.

A deputy group arrived in Ingushetia to study the situation around Chechnya in view of the upcoming parliamentary hearings on the issue and the appeal of the Ingush president reporting shelling of Ingush civilians. The ITAR-TASS correspondent went to Arshty together with deputies and members of the Ingush parliament.

According to residents of Arshty, a Russian Su-25 plane left the area several minutes before the arrival of deputies. "It was flying at a low height above the roofs for ten minutes and bombed the settlement. Several houses were destroyed", said the residents.

After visiting a house basement where civilians were hiding, Federation Council deputy and member of the Committee for Security and Defence Igor Gladkov told ITAR-TASS "it was the strongest shock I have ever had and I was involved in grave crime trials for 12 years".

The deputies said they will send a cable to the acting Russian procurator general and the Russian leadership today to report on shelling of peaceful settlements.

506th Motorized Infantry Regiment Sent to Chechnya

LD2401185095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1824 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Belyakov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Samara January 24 TASS—The 506th Motorized Infantry Regiment of the 27th Motorized Infantry Division of the Russian peace-making force has been sent to the Chechen region. It will be subordinated by the North Caucasian Military District command.

The regiment has been well-trained in Southern Ossetia and the Trans-Dniester region during peace-making operations. An order of the Russian defence minister temporarily removed the regiment from the Russian peace-making force.

Dudayev Not To Show Previous Tolerance to Russian POW's

LD2401165195 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1600 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview for our radio station late in the evening yesterday, Dzhokhar Dudayev stated the Chechen side would not, from now on, show previous tolerance toward POWs.

[Begin Dudayev recording] The Russian side and the Russian mothers should do well to bear in mind that Chechens have mothers, too. We have already shown our goodwill. On 26 December hundreds and hundreds of prisoners were taken.

It now turns out that some of these prisoners were again taken prisoner in the course of this year.

After all, we are not a peacemaking organization. The issue of prisoners will be resolved following a truce and the conclusion of relevant agreements. [end recording]

'Extremely Toxic' Liquid Spilled Near Khabarovsk

LD2501042195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0322 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khabarovsk, 25 Jan, TASS—Experts from the Khabarovsk regional environmental committee appealed to Amur residents this morning to warn them about a danger and ask for their assistance at the same time. The appeal was prompted by the discovery of about 16 tonnes of an extremely toxic and dangerous liquid that was discharged near the Baykal-Amur railway. Experts have established that the discharged liquid is a fuel component based on the nitric acids compound.

At present, the major part of the liquid is still in a frozen stream, which makes it possible to avert the disaster for the time being. However, experts do not know how to neutralize the dangerous substance.

Economic Issues

Russo-German Economic Meeting Fails To Produce Documents

LD2401145595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ST. PETERSBURG, Jan 24 (Interfax)—The sides did not adopt any documents at the end of the fourth session of the Russian-German Council for Economic Cooperation in St. Petersburg

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attended by the economy ministers of the two countries Yevgeniy Yasin and Gunter Rexrodt. In this context observers point to the reserved stance on the developments in Chechnya taken by the German side.

During the two-day session Rexrodt stressed that he had been repeatedly sharply criticized by the German public and members of parliament for his willingness to attend the annual meeting of Russian and German business representatives. He feared that the Chechen developments could block Russia's membership in the Council of Europe and complicate Moscow's economic dialogue with the West.

Yasin stressed the special significance of relations with Germany: that country was responsible for 13 percent of Russia's foreign trade in 1994. He said that the main task of the government remains to bridle inflation to a monthly 2-4 percent by the end of 1995.

He declared that the cabinet does not intend to make concessions on the budget but admitted that the war in Chechnya has already required 2.3-2.7 trillion rubles in additional spending.

The council discussed a number of joint projects: the construction of the $40 billion Yamal-Western Europe gas pipeline involving Gazprom concern (Russia) and Veba (Germany), the long-term development of oil deposits in the Volga region and the operation of Volgodeminoil joint venture (formed by Deminex) in which DM 63 million have been invested, the formation of a Moscow-Minsk-Warsaw- Berlin railway and auto transport corridor, by 2000, with an estimated cost of $3 billion.

The signing of a licence agreement between Russki Dizel company (St. Petersburg) and M.A.N. (Germany) on the production of engines with German technology had been timed for this session. Rexrodt attended the Tuesday ceremony.

Davydov Says EU Postponed Accord for Economic Reasons

LD2001180695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1527 GMT 20 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, Jan 20 (INTERFAX)—The official decision of the European Union [EU] to put off an interim agreement on trade with Russia in light of events in Chechnya was, in point of fact, dictated by economic considerations, Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov told Interfax.

In his words, the EU leaders used the Chechen events only as a pretext to continue dragging their feet on signing an initialed document which was to provide a framework for trade relations between Russia and the E.U. until the June 1994 Partnership and Cooperation Agreement is ratified.

Davydov believed that had there been no conflict in Chechnya, the EU would find another pretext to mark time.

He explained that the interim agreement gave Russia new advantages in trade with the EU by removing numerous discriminatory barriers.

In Davydov's view, the reluctance to implement the interim agreement became apparent since France took over the chairmanship of the EU because Russia is France's number one competitor in aluminum, nuclear materials and other markets.

Davydov made it clear that Russia had no intention of breaking the talks. A delegation headed by Deputy Foreign Relations Minister Georgiy Gabuniya will leave for Brussels next February to discuss the "frozen" agreements on textiles and steel as well as the interim agreement.

Davydov said: "We will try to explain that Russia should not be addressed in the language of ultimatums and that its internal problems should not influence foreign trade relations."

Upbeat on Russian-Finland Trade

LD2401192795 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1500 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mayak special correspondent Tatyana Chemodanova interviewed Oleg Dmitriyevich Davydov, deputy prime minister of the Russian Government and minister of foreign economic relations. He has just returned from a trip to Finland. May I remind you that this country is a long-standing and traditional partner of Russia.

[Begin recording] [Chemodanova] Oleg Dmitriyevich, what is your assessment of cooperation with Finland and what are the prospects for its development?

[Davydov] I can say that in 1994 the volume of trade increased by 40 percent, compared to 1993. Finland is the seventh largest trade partner of Russia, and Russia's share in Finland's trade turnover increased to reach 7.5 percent. In general, this is a positive phenomenon: It means that Finnish business circles have adapted to our actual economic circumstances and they are expanding cooperation. Of course, [Finland's] joining of the European Union will somewhat complicate the access of our goods to the [Finnish] market, because legislation adopted by the European Union will operate on the border between Russia and Finland. Licenses, quotas, anti-dumping [regulations]—all these things will exist there. I reached agreement with the prime minister on how to reduce these barriers to a minimum level, so that they will not affect our trade relations. This question was also raised by our prime minister, and it is very important.

A second issue, which has a restraining effect is the debt of the Russian Federation. We have proposed to them a

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scheme for settling commercial debt, and if this is accepted, then we will be able to say that our country and Finland have only state debts registered with the Paris Club. This debt, in turn, will be met according to general guidelines, which are being agreed with Russia.

We also discussed a large project for the construction of an oil pipeline between Kirishi [a Russian town about 100 km southeast of St. Petersburg] and Porvoo [Finnish town 50 km northeast of Helsinki] to supply oil to the Porvoo oil refinery. It is planned to dispatch the oil from terminals at a port on Russian territory. In other words, the interests both of Russia and Finland will be taken into consideration. This will be a so-called Baltic pipeline. The total amount invested is about 1 billion dollars, a rather large investment, which could allow us to increase oil exports, especially from the northern regions. [end recording]

Finance Minister Panskov Defends Budget

LD2401203595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1700 GMT on 24 January on the "Vesti" program carries a four-minute interview of Finance Minister Vladimir Panskov conducted by program moderator Tatyana Khudobina in the studio. Panskov is asked about the allegedly unrealistic nature of the budget, which is to be tackled by the State Duma tomorrow. Panskov replies: "I think that it is not just hopeless, but simply realistic." He stresses that the proposed budget is "aimed at economic recovery, among other things." Regarding the aims of the Ministry of Finance in 1995, Panskov replies: "The realistic implementation of the budget on the financing of the programs outlined in it, monitoring money circulation in the country, and improving the financial situation in the national economy."

Panskov states that the additional expenditures resulting from the Chechnya developments can be covered in the draft budget for the forthcoming year. Asked about prospects for price rises by the end of the year, Panskov answers: "Naturally, it would not be true to say that prices will stop rising. It is inevitable that prices will rise, but their growth will be drastically reduced by this policy. If we manage to maintain the policy that forms the basis of this budget, a policy of harsh economy, a policy of noninflationary methods for covering the budget deficit, then the price rises will drastically decrease to 2-3 percent per month by the end of the year."

Panskov states that whether he is finance minister or not, he is willing to come to the studio at the end of the year and answer viewers' questions about the financing of different spheres. Finally, when asked whether he will manage to avoid political games, he concludes: "I think that any financier, all the more so a finance minister, should be outside of politics, outside of political parties, outside of political games. The main thing is to boost the economy, to boost the economy of our country."

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National Affairs

President Kuchma To Settle Gas Deal in Moscow

WS2401154995 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2101 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Report by Halia Pavliva]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan. 23—President Leonid Kuchma leaves for Moscow Tuesday [24 January] to hammer out an agreement to free the transport of natural gas to Ukraine. Russia is blocking deliveries of Turkmen gas to Ukraine because Ukraine has not supplied a customs agreement for gas delivered through Russian territory.

President Kuchma said Monday he was forced on Saturday to personally call Rem Viakhirev, Russian Gaz-Prom director, to ask him to open the pipelines to Ukraine. "I am enraged at Ukrainian officials who did not have the time or opportunity to sign an agreement with Russia on the transport of gas across Russian territory," said Kuchma at the Council of Regions meeting Monday. Kuchma assured Monday that Ukraine began receiving gas on Saturday.

Turkmenistan agreed to supply Ukraine with 20 billion cubic meters of natural gas this year, according to an agreement signed Jan. 19 by President Kuchma and Turkmenistan President Saparmurat Niyazov. The deal came after a series of gas cuts to Ukraine due to a US$700 million payment arrears.

But a conflicting report on gas delivery came from Turkmenistan Deputy Oil and Gas Minister, who, in a telephone interview with UNIAN Monday, said, "Ukraine is not receiving natural gas from Turkmenistan because Russia has blocked its passage through the pipeline."

Cabinet of Ministers Chief-of-Staff Valeriy Pustovoitenko at a Friday Cabinet meeting confirmed that Ukraine will not receive Turkmen gas supplies until Ukraine and Russia sign an agreement on natural gas transit through Russian territory. But Ukrainian State Television reported Saturday that Pustovoitenko denied the validity of this report.

Deputy Prime Minister Ihor Mitiukov, the main negotiator of the Turkmen deal, said during a visit to Ashgabat Jan. 13-14 that the transit agreement was not signed because Russia raised its gas transit prices from US$1.5 per 100 kilometers to US$1.73-1.77. "Ukraine accounted for the original price in its 1995 state budget and thus could not agree to the Russian agreement," said Mitiukov.

Justice Ministry Warns Advocates of USSR Restoration

LD2401184695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1555 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—"The actions of those gathering signatures in support of holding a referendum for the restoration of the USSR are considered as constituting an appeal for a forced change in the territorial integrity of the state (Article 62 of Ukraine's criminal code) which can result in confinement for up to seven years," notes an explanation circulated on 24 January by Ukraine's Ministry of Justice about the legality of holding this referendum.

"If the signatures are being collected, then in accordance with Article 5 of the Ukrainian Constitution and Articles 5-15, 18 of the law "On Ukrainian-Wide and Local Referendums," the initiative groups taking part in these measures should be registered by the Central Electoral Commission on Ukrainian-wide referendums. The Central Electoral Commission has not registered such initiative groups," noted the Ministry of Justice.

In addition, the ministry explained that the activity of public and political organizations that results in a forced change in the constitutional system and the territorial integrity of the state can legally be stopped (Article 32 of the law "On Citizens' Societies").

As UNIAN has already reported, the Russian State Duma has decided to examine the issue of Russia's reunification on 8 February. The draft, in particular, contains a proposal to prepare a declaration on the willingness of Russia to reunify with other republics of the former USSR.

Not waiting for 8 February, people in Donetsk and Kharkov Oblasts have already started gathering signatures for the restoration of the USSR without knowing the legal consequences of such actions. "The decision to hold a Ukrainian-wide referendum is in the exclusive jurisdiction of the Ukrainian Supreme Council (Article 87 of the Ukrainian Constitution)," the information from Ukraine's Ministry of Justice explains.

Parliamentary Group Demands Russian Troop Withdrawal

LD2401210895 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1920 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The issue of Russian troop withdrawal from the territory of Ukraine must be raised at international organizations such as the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, said Deputy Bohdan Horyn at a news conference held by parliamentary group Statehood today. He said Ukraine now had to resort to "resolute action" on Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet, since warnings had proved ineffective.

The withdrawal of foreign troops from Sevastopol must be a priority for Ukrainian authorities, said Mr. Horyn, as it would rid the Crimean peninsula of most of its problems. UNIAN has already reported that the Supreme Council of Ukraine decided to consider in February a draft law on the status of foreign troops in Ukraine.

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According to Deputy Mykola Porovskyy, the second congress of the Ukrainian Civic Congress of Crimea, which he attended together with Deputies Mykola Zhulynskyy and Taras Kyyak, approved on 22 January an appeal to the president, government, and Supreme Council of Ukraine demanding division of the Black Sea Fleet and withdrawal of its Russian part from Crimea.

Mr. Porovskyy said that the problem had to be solved before 29 April, the date of Crimea's local elections. "About one-fourth of Sevastopol is populated by Russian officers and their families, and they in fact are going to elect Sevastopol authorities. A powerful intelligence service of the Black Sea Fleet, subordinate to the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service, is active on the peninsula. That is why the Statehood group, together with national- democratic organizations in Crimea, are demanding immediate withdrawal of Russian troops from its territory," he said.

Kuchma: Turkmen Accords Start of 'Economic Integration'

AU2501090095 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 21 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Natalya Filipchuk: "Just Point Anywhere on the Surface, and Oil or Gas Will Gush Forth"]

[FBIS Translated Text]

In 1995, 20 Billion Cubic Meters of Turkmenian Gas Will Be Supplied to Ukraine

This is how Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma pictures Turkmenistan. It seems that this idea is shared in Turkmenistan, where there is talk that the country may become a "gas-bearing Kuwait" and that in the year 2002, every family will have a house, an automobile, gas and water supply systems, a telephone, and a personal computer. It is also planned that, in 1996, bread will be free of charge for the population. This somewhat resembles the fairy-tale about communism, in the anticipation of which the USSR had lived for more than 70 years. However, in Turkmenistan, the fairy-tale will become a reality; at least this is being promoted by the policy of "open doors," the "Ten Years of Stability," "The New Village," and "Grain" programs. Oil and gas, whose deposits occupy 80 percent of the country's territory (the fourth place after Russia, the United States, and Canada), form the basis for the planned economic miracle.

Altogether 35 percent of gas extracted in Turkmenistan is exported to Ukraine—this satisfies about one-third of our needs. According to Ukraine's Ministry of Statistics, over nine months of 1994, the external trade turnover with that country constituted $627.2 million—the largest among CIS countries, except Russia. This cooperation is also promoted by the fact that "there have never been any political disputes between our states," as stated by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov on 19 January at the Boryspil Airport. "There was a certain misunderstanding in economic relations, but that problem has been largely resolved."

From 15 January, Turkmenian gas has been supplied to Ukraine (10 million cubic meters a day). On 19 January, the presidents signed a joint communique and an interstate agreement on deliveries of 20 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Turkmenistan to Ukraine in 1995. The fact that this figure is 9 billion cubic meters higher than planned is a result of the negotiations between the Ukrainian president and the president of Turkmenistan. As Leonid Kuchma pointed out, the gas had been purchased at prices lower than those prevailing in the world: $60 instead of $80 for one cubic meter, and this will make it possible to save between $10 million and $12 million.

A protocol on the schedule for repaying Ukraine's debts to Turkmenistan for gas supplied in 1994 and a protocol on supplementing the agreement on restructuring Ukraine's state debt to Turkmenistan for 1993 were also signed. These documents are very advantageous for Ukraine. "The credit for Ukraine has been extended by seven years, and this is a good example for Russia to follow," pointed out Leonid Kuchma. The protocol on restructuring envisages the following procedure for settlements: 40 percent in hard currency and 60 percent in goods. The agreement on commodity exchange signed in addition to the protocol lists about 1,000 types of goods, mainly products of machine building, agriculture, and chemical industry. The Turkmenian side is also interested in our aviation industry. Today, at the O. Antonov Aviation Scientific and Technological Complex, which the presidents visited, seven Turkmenian AN-24 aircraft are being repaired; several engines for Yak-42 aircraft have been ordered; the Turkmenian money will be used in the development of the AN-70. During the visit, an accord was reached on purchasing five AN-74 aircraft by Turkmenistan.

For its part, Ukraine offered its services in building the gas pipeline Turkmenistan-Iran-Turkey to Europe. As Leonid Kuchma pointed out, "We do not give up gas purchases from Russia. It remains our main importer. However, it always helps to have an alternative source." Ukrainian specialists will also take part in building railroads and electricity transmission lines in Turkmenistan.

"The fact that during the visit by Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov to Ukraine we managed to resolve such an important problem as deliveries of Turkmenian gas and also determined Turkmenistan's needs in goods, which can be procured in Ukraine, indicates that the process of economic integration has started," believes Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma.

Oblast Signs Economic Accords With Russia, Belarus, Poland

AU2501132395 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 24 Jan 95 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Volyn Builds Bridges to Novgorod"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Over the last three months, Volyn leaders have concluded 16 regional accords on economic cooperation with oblasts in Ukraine, Belarus, Russia, and the Polish Republic. Recently, at a meeting of leaders of several Russian, Ukrainian, and Belarusian regions in Novgorod, an agreement on long-term cooperation between Volyn and Novgorod was discussed. Andriy Chumachenko, deputy chairman of the Volyn Oblast Executive Committee, took part in the meeting. He said that Novgorod may supply timber, paper, mineral fertilizers, television sets, and fuel to Volyn and receive products of animal husbandry, canned food, and agricultural machinery. The creation of joint ventures was also discussed.

Communists Oppose Russian Chechnya Actions

954F0989B Donestk VECHERNIY DONETSK in Russian 20 Jan 95 p 1

[Article by V. Pozdnyshev: "On the Events in Chechnya"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Presidium of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Ukraine and the deputy faction of communists in the republic Supreme Council have issued a statement regarding the military actions in Chechnya. It says, in particular, that the communists of Ukraine have always been and still are against resolving any conflicts through force. They think that the events in Chechnya are one of the first attempts at a show of force on the part of the growing Russian imperialism. The Yeltsin government can have no justifications for the spilled blood of the people. The people must determine their own destiny. And nobody has given them the right to dictate to them their own conditions, the more so with the force of weapons.

Decree on Election Date for Local Deputies

954F0989A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 20 Jan 95 p 1

[Decree of the Supreme Council of Crimea under the rubric "Official Department": "On the Scheduling of Elections of Deputies and Chairmen of Local Councils of the Republic of Crimea"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of Articles 135 and 115 of the Constitution of the Republic of Crimea and Article 10 of the law of the Republic of Crimea "On Elections of Deputies and Representatives of Rural, Village, Rayon, City, and Rayon-in-City Councils," the Supreme Council of Crimea DECREES:

Elections of deputies and chairmen of local councils of the Republic of Crimea shall be scheduled for 29 April 1995.

[Signed] Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Council of Crimea A. Melnikov

Simferopol

18 January 1995

No. 314-1

Border Guard Infrastructure

95P50040

[FBIS Media Note] This report on the administrative and regional structure of Ukraine's border guard is based on information in Ukraine's press.

Ukraine's border guard forces operate under the State Committee for Protect ion of State Borders rather than under the regular Minis try of Defense chain of command. Colonel General Viktor Ivanovych Bannykh has served as acting head of the State Committee since the ouster of his predecessor, General Valeriy Oleksandrovych Hubenko, in mid-October. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 49, 22 Oct 94 p 1).

The border guard forces are divided into both administrative and regional directorates. Further details on these entities are provided below:

Directorate for Border Control [Ukr. Upravlinnya Prykordonnoho Kontrolyu], headed by Major General Anatoliy Semenovych Byelyayev. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 80, 4 Dec 93 p 1)

Directorate for Cadres [Ukr. Upravlinnya Kadriv], headed by Major General Petro Mykhaylovych Chayka. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

Operational-Investigative Directorate [Russ. Operativno-Rozysknoye Upravleniye] headed by Major General Vladiimir Petrovich Dordyuk. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Russian No. 23, 23 Apr 94 pp 4-5)

Directorate for Rear Services [Ukr. Upravlinnya Tylu], headed by Major General Yevhen Vasylyovych Berezovskyy. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

The Treaty Law Section [Russ. Dogovorno-Pravovyy Otdel], headed by Colonel Leonid Nikolayevich Kotlyarevskiy. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Russian No. 36, 23 July 94 p 1)

The Khmelnytskyy Border Guard Forces Institute [Ukr. Khmelnytskyy Instytut Prykordonnykh Viysk; Russ. Khmelnitskiy Institut Pogranichnykh Voysk], headed by Lieutenant General Borys Mykolayovych Oleksiyenko. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

It has not been made clear in press reporting whether the Treaty Law Section and the Khmelnytskyy Institute are independent entities reporting directly to the State Committee or are subordinate to one of the directorates.

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The following four regional directorates have been identified: Northw estern Directorate [Pivnichno-Zakhidne Upravlinnya], headed by Lieutenant General Mykola Yoltukhovskyy. (Kiev NARODNA ARMIYA in Ukrainian 4 Jan 95 p 1) First Deputy Head and Chief of Staff Major General Mykola Serhiovych Rakovych. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

Southern Directorate [Pivdenne Upravlinnya], headed by Lieutenant General V. Bondar. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Russian No. 24, 30 Apr 94 p 2) First Deputy Chief and Chief of Staff Major General Viktor Mykolayovych Demchuk. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

Southeastern Directorate [Pivdenno-skhidne Upravlinnya], headed by Major General Ivan Tymof iyovych Chudnovskyy. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 21, 9 Apr 94 pp 4-5) First Deputy Head and Chief of Staff Viktor Vasylyovych Kharchenko. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 31, 18 June 94 p 1)

Maritime Directorate [Russ. Morskoye Upravleniye] headed by Captain 1st Rank Vladimir Aleksandrovich Shcherbina. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Russian No. 42, 3 Sept 94 p 2)

In addition to the Maritime Directorate, there is an Independent Odesa Border Patrol Ship Formation [Russ. Otdelnoye Odesskoye Soyedineniye Pogranichnykh Storozhevykh Korabley] commanded by Captain 1st Rank Nikolay Arkhipov. (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 45, 24-27 Sept 94 p 1)

A report published in early January 1995 stated that in accordance with an order from the head of the State Committee a military council for the Northwestern Directorate had been established in Lviv. (Kiev NARODNA ARMIYA in Ukrainian 4 Jan 95 p 1)

Other reporting named intermediate level components between regional directorates and the individual border control points. Two articles identified the Chernivetskyy Border Segment [Russ. Pogranichnyy Otryad; Ukr. Prykordonnyy Zahin] headed by Major General Volodymyr P. Bidakh. The second of these noted that the Chernivetskyy Border Segment extended for almost 500 km along the frontiers of Ivano-Frankivsk and Chernivtsi Oblasts. (Kiev NARODNA ARMIYA in Ukrainian 4 Nov 94 p 1) Other segments identified are the Lvivskyy Segment (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 54, 3 Dec 94 p 4), Mukachevskyy Segment (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 50, 29 Oct 94 p 4), Odeskyy Segment (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 52, 17 Nov 94 p 4), Simferopolskyy Segment (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 44, 17 Sept 94 p 4), and Chernihivskyy Segment (Kiev PRYKORDONNYK UKRAYINY in Ukrainian No. 32, 25 June 94 p 2).

Economic Issues

Agreement on Trade Principles Signed With Russia

LD2501131695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1102 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, Jan 25 (INTERFAX-UKRAINE)— On January 24 the Russian and Ukrainian Governments signed an agreement on principles for bilateral trade and economic cooperation in 1995, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's press secretary Mikhail Doroshenko told INTERFAX-Ukraine.

Under the document, trade and economic cooperation are to be based on the principles of equality and mutual advantage, and on appropriate business agreements.

The Russian joint stock companies Roskontrakt and KAMAZ, and the Ukrainian state-managed joint stock company Ukrresursyy and the Ukragrotekhservis concern are to exchange goods on a barter basis.

The Russian and Ukrainian Governments pledge to encourage moves to found trans-national and joint stock companies.

Kiev can pay off up to 50% of the loan of June 24, 1993, as well as the interest on it, in material production, and the remaining part in hard currency or Russian rubles.

Under a protocol on the working meeting between Prime Ministers Viktor Chernomyrdin and Vitaliy Masol, the two countries "agree[d] on approaches to the restructuring of the Ukrainian debt."

Moscow is to allow a postponement on the delayed payments on the Russian Government loans of 1992 and 1993.

A special agreement on that problem is to be signed before February 15.

'Zero Option' Agreement Viewed, Criticized

WS2401154095 Lvov VYBIR in English 0900 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Article by Viktor Tkachuk: "Ukraine Again Signs 'Zero Variant' But Is it the Final Decision?"—from the "Ukrainian News" feature No.3]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The so-called "zero variant" of distribution of assets and liabilities of the former USSR, recently signed by the Ukrainian premier in Moscow, will soon be considered by the Ukrainian parliament.

Signing of the Agreement

There were a lot of rumors about signing of the "zero variant." The premier Masol's statement "Today nobody owes us anything and we do not owe anything to anybody" caused a real shock among the politicians having the influential factions in the parliament. According to the zero variant agreement, Ukraine

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refuses to have its part in the USSR assets and transfers them to Russia, while the latter will pay the Ukraine's part of the USSR debt. On the second day of signing the agreement, a parliamentarian from the faction "Reforms" confidentially told journalists that President Kuchma had instructed Prime Minister Masol to sign the zero variant only together with other two documents—on restructuring of the Ukraine's debt to Russia and on providing Ukraine with the premises in 36 USSR embassies abroad. Instead, Mr. Masol signed only the zero variant agreement. A week later, Security Council Secretary, V. Horbulin, confirmed that information and accused the premier of the lack of principled approach. Premier's assistant Melnychuk stated that the premier had received clear instructions from the president to sign just the zero variant. I. Yukhnovskyy, leader of the faction "Statehood," is sure that such clear instructions had really been made saying that in 1993, when Kuchma was the premier, he also supported the above variant.

Some History

In the spring of 1992, Ukraine several times agreed to sign the zero variant. That happened during the visit of the Ukrainian delegation with Vice-Premier Pynzenyk at the head to Moscow. The protocol on intentions signed by him specified that Ukraine refused to have its part of USSR assets while the Ukrainian part of the USSR liabilities was included into Ukraine's debt to Russia. It was the then Finance Minister Pyatachenko that persuaded Pynzenyk not to sign the zero variant agreement in such wording. After that, the protocol was disavowed by the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. In 1993, the then Deputy Prime Minister Yukhnovsky conducted the talks to that end, and he was the first to propose to first divide the Soviet assets and then liabilities.

The division of the Soviet assets and liabilities was like the sword of Damocles hanging over the relations between Ukraine and Russia since all other ex-Soviet republics gave up their parts to Moscow. Another round of games around this issue started in the fall of 1994. In September, the government sources informed about the request of the Ukrainian administration to the Paris club of creditors to postpone payment of the USSR debt by Russia and the interest amounting to $800 million. The first postponement was also granted with active participation of Ukraine when, on March 26, 1993, the then-Prime Minister Kuchma sent similar request to the Paris club of creditors saying that the 18 countries, the creditors of the former USSR, did not have a single claim against Ukraine until the debt payment issue is settled by Russia and Ukraine. That helped Russia to conduct the talks on behalf of all states- successors of the former USSR and to get the postponement for paying the debt for 1993 and 1994.

Soviet Assets

They include:

—Financial assets (debts of other states to the Soviet Union);

—Fixed assets (property of joint ventures, missions of the Soviet companies, banks and embassies abroad);

—Gold, diamond, and copper reserves whose value is still unknown in Ukraine. In the beginning of 1993, the Russian Government provided such information at the request of Deputy Prime Minister Yukhnovskyy but he does not regard it as fully authentic. In particular, he remembers that according to the Russian list, there are 16 facilities belonging to the former USSR in Austria while, after his official request, the Austrian Government informed that the number of objects was 48. According to Mr. Yukhnovskyy, Russia had already sold a part of property assets, so now it is impossible to prove that the property for which Moscow received money belongs to the USSR assets.

Russia sells both property and financial assets. According to T.Yakheyeva, the legislative deputy and economist, Russia sells the debts of other countries to the USSR at the price lower than the nominal one. For instance, according to her, the $90-million debt of Madagascar was sold for $45 million. After the collapse of the USSR, some countries already paid their debt to Russia, but Ukraine received nothing. She says that by 1 January, 1991, financial assets of the USSR had two times exceeded its liabilities. Nobody knows about the amount of such assets as of today.

Soviet Liabilities (Debts)

According to Mr. Yukhnovskyy, the USSR made most debts during the rule of Gorbachev. The biggest credits were given to the USSR in the second half of 1991 after the Ukrainian Government adopted the Act on Independence on 24 August, 1991. Ukraine received just $15 million of the credit amount. From that time, it was Russia that paid the Soviet debt with the aid of Ukraine. Despite the above debt payment postponements granted by the Paris club, at the end of 1994, Russia again found itself in a rather difficult position. The Russian Government is not so successful in its talks with the London Club of creditors that provided a commercial credit to Russia.

In July 1993, the Russian delegation with Vice-Premier Shokhin at the head managed to receive the postponement of payment of the London Club's commercial debt (about $30 billion) but the document to that end was never signed. The situation changed for the better in March 1994, when the IMF gave $3 billion to Russia to set up the stabilization fund. Then followed the standby credit to the tune of $4 billion.

However, in October, the Deutsche bank, a major force in the London Club, issued the statement on different approaches of the parties to the debt problem resulting from uncertain legal status of ex-Soviet republics. In fact, the London Club did not recognize the Russia's right to conduct the talks on behalf of all successors of the USSR.

It seems that the London club hesitated as a result of political chaos in Russia last fall when Yeltsin shot at his

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parliament and Zhirinovskiy's party gained big success at the parliamentary elections. At that time, many analysts criticized the risk taken by the IMF in giving credits to Russia.

In the last few months, the market value of the USSR liabilities at the securities market varied depending on political situation in Russia. In December 1993, the proposal price was 55 [not further specified] while by 21 March 1994, it decreased down to 33. The lowest price of foreign economic bank liabilities was 28.

Conclusions

The right of Russia to conduct talks with creditors and to handle the USSR assets directly depends on signing the zero variant agreement. On the other hand, the Ukrainian debt for oil and gas supplies from Turkmenistan and Russia forces Kiev to make concessions in this field. According to V. Melnychuk, situation changed for the worse after the talks in Turkmenistan where Economics Minister Roman Shpek promised that Ukraine would pay part of its debt to Turkmenistan using the IMF credit amounting to $350 million. Several days after that, Russia also wanted to have part of the credit money threatening to cut the gas supplies in the middle of the winter. Such policy is easy to explain by the war in Chechnya that absorbs a big part of the Russian state budget. So it seems that Premier Masol had nothing to do but to sign the zero variant.

However, this fact does not mean that the Ukrainian parliament will ratify the agreement. Ukraine definitely wants to delay the settlement of this issue. Most centrist leaders in the parliament do not think that Ukraine will receive a part of the USSR assets, but they are going to use the assets and liabilities factor in political games with Russia. The same holds for the policy of the president's team. Still, the president may use the zero variant in order to remove Mr. Masol from his post. The real progress in this field can appear only after signing the Russian-Ukrainian cooperation and friendship treaty. Ukraine can also use the zero variant to exert pressure on Russia in order to amend some formulations of the treaty in its favor. The ratification also depends on the approval of the state budget for 1995.

Kuchma: Energy Shortages Drive Decline in Industry

LD2301220095 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—"Unless we improve the energy supply situation, there may be a repeat performance of the 40 percent decline in output that occurred in the first quarter of 1994," Ukrainian Leonid Kuchma said in a speech to the Council of Regions on 23 January.

He said that the gas rations of December 1994 were halved this January and that petrochemical, machine-building, and metallurgical enterprises were grinding to a halt.

The president said this was a result of the "past policy of self-isolation from the former Soviet republics, above all, from Russia," of the inability to restructure foreign trade, and of the intensive energy consumption in industry. "We will not survive unless we mothball a number of enterprises that remain unviable, given world prices for raw materials," Kuchma stressed. He said there was a need for a clear-cut government program.

The situation concerning energy supplies was all the more complicated for the growing balance of payments deficit, Kuchma continued. According to preliminary estimates, Ukraine will have to import over 8 billion U.S. dollars worth of fuel supplies in 1995. "This will cause a trade deficit of some 4 billion U.S. dollars," the president said.

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Belarus

Defense Minister On Security, NATO Participation

WS2501104295 Minsk ZVYAZDA in Belarusian 20 Jan 95 p 1

[Interview with Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka by Yuras Karmanaw; place and date not given: "We Should Worry About Security for Belarus"—first paragraph is ZVYAZDA introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] In connection with the recent Belarusian accession to the "Partnership for Peace" NATO initiative, a ZVYAZDA correspondent spoke to Belarusian Defense Minister Anatol Kastenka.

[Karmanaw] Why has Belarus been the last of the European states to join the "Partnership for Peace?"

[Kastenka] First of all, our public has not been prepared. According to history, it is in Belarus' nature to take measured steps and without haste. Of course, you have paid attention to the fact that other states have joined in the "Partnership" almost simultaneously. As for us, when we take a step, we try to foresee what results it will lead us to and how it will affect the security and sovereignty of our state.

[Karmanaw] In what way?

[Kastenka] Participation in the "Partnership for Peace" program does not oblige a member state to establish blocs [sentence as published]. The "Partnership" envisages a wide variety of activities and it is up to us as a member state to specify to what degree we will participate in them. This is no burden at all, because the NATO program is very simplified and loyal [as published]. Belarus has specified a very small number of issues to discuss in the "Partnership," such as information, military conversion, environmental issues, and so on. These are exactly the kind of issues which would not require huge financial expenditures from Belarus.

[Karmanaw] Processes of confrontation, perhaps, which began in Europe, have relieved the NATO initiative from the functions which were envisaged by the "Partnership" at the beginning: to prevent the development of an open confrontation. What is the reason for the need to join the "Partnership" now?

[Kastenka] Belarus should not be in isolation. Our state should participate in all-European processes and affect them if it can.

[Karmanaw] How do you assess statements by representatives of official Russian circles regarding the fact that if NATO expands, Russia then would push forward an initiative to establish a bloc of CIS states as an alternative to NATO.

[Kastenka] We should draft our own foreign policy priorities, specify our top priorities and the direction of our policy. Belarus is currently a member of the CIS Collective Security Treaty. Therefore, it seems to me that this issue should be resolved within the framework of organizations in which Belarus participates. First of all, of course, we should worry about our state's security. We cannot but take into consideration that Poland and a few other national democratic states have expressed their ardent wish to enter NATO. This triggers specific fears in Belarus, because NATO will approach Belarus's borders through Poland. We cannot let this go without any reaction. Therefore, Lukashenka supported Russia when it spoke against the automatic expansion of NATO in Budapest.

[Karmanaw] Is Poland's accession to NATO of any threat to Belarus?

[Kastenka] Our anxiety refers rather to the future, because an entire variety of activities, as well as the participation in military exercises within the NATO framework, have been planned. As a result, this does not rule out military reconnaissance on the adjacent territory and other negative issues. I am not saying that Poland's policy is of some threat for Belarus. Warsaw behaves very peacefully. Nevertheless, when neighboring states concentrate their troops, when they move or regroup their troops along our borders, we cannot but pay attention to this fact. Poland is strengthening its eastern military district; this, however, is being done not because it wants to be strong on the Belarusian-Polish border. Poland is simply redistributing its military units and this is not connected with its accession to NATO.

[Karmanaw] First Deputy Foreign Minister Valeryy Tsepkala—at one of his news conferences—pushed forward an initiative to use the Belarusian military in "hot spots" within the U.N. framework. Do you share Mr. Tsepkala's opinion?

[Kastenka] We are very far from discussing this topic. The Supreme Soviet has a clear position on this issue: We cannot send our servicemen to "hot spots" either as observers, or in any other capacity. If we sort things out from the point of view of their expediency, we can find specific acceptable elements, because this is of great benefit for our state: The participation in U.N. peaceful actions is highly paid. For example, Russian peacekeeping servicemen earn $500. This is one advantage. The other one is the increase in the role and authority of the state.

Treaties Result From Kozyrev Minsk Visit

Lukashenka: Agreement Close

LD2401173495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1702 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By BELINFORM correspondents Vladimir Glod and Aleksandr Lyushkevich for TASS]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Minsk January 24—Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka had an hour and a

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half talk with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev in Minsk today. "Today we have reached certainty that the Russian and Belarusian leaders can meet in the nearest time to sign a friendship and cooperation agreement which should have been signed long ago," Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka said after the talk.

Lukashenka said integration of the two neighbouring states would attain a new level and grow into an economic union.

Kozyrev said there were no obstacles for signing the agreement. Although Lukashenka and Kozyrev did not speak of an exact date of Yeltsin's visit to Minsk for signing the agreement, the visit is likely to take place before the spring.

Friendship, Cooperation Treaty Initialed

LD2401143195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

Minsk, Jan 24 (INTERFAX-WEST)—Culminating Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev's three-day visit to Minsk, Belarus and Russia initialled a treaty on friendship and cooperation, concluded a consular convention and a protocol on consultations between the Russian and Belarusian foreign ministries.

Kozyrev told a press conference in Minsk on Tuesday [24 January] that "a good foundation has been laid for President Yeltsin's visit to Belarus."

Yeltsin is expected to visit Belarus at the end of January or the beginning of February.

Kozyrev stated that "a tendency towards the two countries' economic integration has made itself felt." He also noted that the restoration of economic contacts does not mean an automatic roll- back to the past. Economic contacts must be resumed on a mutually- advantageous basis, Kozyrev stressed.

"The year 1994 made it clearer what the CIS actually is - a form of civilized divorce of former Soviet republics, or a model of new association," he said. He noted that "the form of civilized divorce is of great importance," he stated that "there are clear integration processes in relations between Russia and Belarus." [sentence as received]

Press Briefed on Results of Visit

LD2401201195 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The visit of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev to Minsk has ended. A news conference was held today in the national press center for Belarusian and foreign journalists during which the head of the Russian foreign political department summed up the results of the visit and answered questions from the journalists.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] Today's conversation with Mikhail Chygir gave me hope. He confirmed the aspiration, which is also present on our part, to put into effect and realize an agreement on a customs union, on payments, and so forth, i.e., those agreements that have recently been reached and enable us to speak about Belarus and Russia going over to a new quality of economic relations. I think that it is even setting a certain example for the CIS. You know that agreements of approximately the same character are taking shape between us and Kazakhstan. In a number of aspects, our two countries are setting new patterns, new levels of cooperation. Yesterday's meeting in the Supreme Soviet gave me hope and joy. During that meeting, two members of our delegation, representatives of the Duma and the Council of Federation, participated actively. They are both present here now at the news conference; therefore, if you have any questions, you can put them directly to our legislators. The main thing is that both our legislators and the Supreme Soviet [of Belarus], as I understand it, have aspirations to support those agreements, both political and economic. There is a good chance for ratification of the political agreement after their signing by the presidents—at least that was my impression after yesterday's meeting. And what is not less significant, there is a good chance that the legislators will try to work in unison so that the laws they adopt will reflect, of course, internal specifics and, first of all, the interests of each state, as well as the foreign policy and other aspects of activities, but at the same time making sure that they comply with each other. Then economic cooperation will develop actively too.

In short, the meetings that have been held leave a very good and optimistic feeling, including the meeting yesterday with representatives of creative intellectual workers, which show that, although with difficulties, a new model of equal mutually beneficial, good-neighborly partners' relations between the two brotherly peoples and states is taking shape. [end recording]

Russia Reportedly Renews Oil Supply After Signing Agreement

WS2401135595 Minsk BELAPAN in English 1200 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] As a BELAPAN correspondent was informed in the government circles, last week a Belarusian-Russian intergovernmental agreement "On the Basic Principles of Trade and Economic Cooperation in 1995" was signed in Moscow. According to the agreement, this year Belarus is to receive 10 million tons of oil from Russia. The volume of the produce exported to Russia in exchange for oil was also stipulated. Another 4 million tons of oil will be delivered by clearing. True, according to the source in the Belarusian Government, "it will be difficult for the Republic to find a sufficient quantity of products which could suit the Russian side."

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One of the basic points of the agreement is the price of the oil, which "is not to exceed the price on Russia's home market." The source informed that directly after signing the agreement Russia had resumed the oil supply to Belarus after a 20-day recess.

Prime Minister Says Foreign Debt in Acceptable Range

LD2401221195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1628 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By BELINFORM correspondent Yekaterina Vysotskaya for TASS]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk, 24 Jan—The state is supposed to repay $100 million of its basic debt and $60 million in interest this year from budgetary sources. Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chyhir reported these figures to the BELINFORM correspondent.

The republic currently owes Russia over $400 million for gas. "If we are able to gain financial support from the IMF this money will be partially used to meet our debt for gas," Mikhail Chyhir reported. "We will ask for repayment of the remaining sum to be postponed until the year 2000."

With regard to the republic's foreign debt and international practice in credit security, the head of government reported that Belarus—if the credit support which it is counting on receiving this year is taken into account—is still within the accepted norms for credit security.

"The republic's foreign debt, if its debt for fuel is counted, currently amounts to $1.9 billion," he said. "If you take Poland as an example, until quite recently this state's foreign debts amounted to around $40 billion dollars! So it is premature to speak of Belarus having entered the forbidden zone."

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Kazakhstan

Nazarbayev Signs EU Cooperation Agreement in Brussels

LD2301224895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1953 GMT 23 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondents Gennadiy Kulagin and Aleksandr Mineyev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brussels, 23 Jan—An agreement on partnership and cooperation between Kazakhstan and the European Union was signed in Brussels on Monday [23 January]. This comprehensive document, which envisages the establishment of close and varied ties between Kazakhstan and the European Union in the political, economic, social, and cultural fields, was signed by President Nursultan Nazarbayev, European Union Council President Alain Juppe, and the foreign affairs ministers of all 15 states in the union.

At the same time as this full-scale agreement, which needs to be ratified by the parliaments of all the member countries of the European Union and Kazakhstan, a temporary agreement on trade was signed. Its aim is to implement the trade and economic part of the "big" agreement without delay.

Nazarbayev, who arrived in Brussels today, will also take part in the official opening of the Kazakh Embassy in the Benelux countries and at the European Union and will meet NATO Secretary General Willy Claes.

Kazakh-Russian Integration Accord Signed

LD2501104495 Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 21 Jan 95 p1

[FBIS Translated Text] Given the historical traditions of friendship between the peoples of the two countries and the aspiration to deepen multilateral cooperation;

—confirming their adherence to the principles of sovereignty, equal rights, and genuine partnership;

—taking account of the objective need to further deepen economic integration and to make more effective use of the production potentials of Kazakhstan and Russia and the high degree to which their economies are mutually complementary and interdependent;

—with the aim of improving multilateral cooperation and active participation by both states in developing the Economic Union within the framework of the Commonwealth of Independent States;

—guided by the 25 May 1992 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, the 28 March 1994 Treaty on Further Deepening the Integration and Economic Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, and other agreements reached previously in the political, economic, defense, scientific, technological, social, and humanitarian fields;

—and seeking to lend additional impetus to the expansion and deepening of Russian-Kazakhstan cooperation:

The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and the president of the Russian Federation declare the following:

1. The presidents instruct the governments of both states to carry out a set of measures to bring the treaties and laws forming the basis for relations between the two countries into line with the new realities both in these two states and in the CIS in general, to bring their national legislations closer together, and to sign a customs union agreement.

The presidents also consider it necessary to draft a new package of agreements and documents which will give concrete expression to the main provisions of the 25 May 1992 Treaty on Friendship, Cooperation, and Mutual Assistance between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

2. Kazakhstan-Russian economic cooperation will be founded on the principles of free, nondiscriminatory trade, of creating a common market of goods, services, capital, and labor, and of close interaction in the production, investment, and financial spheres.

3. The Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation will adopt measures to coordinate their foreign economic policies, including customs policy; to remove tariff and nontariff restrictions, including the elimination of customs duties for bilateral trade and the lifting of customs controls along the entire border, given unconditional guarantees of the effective joint defense of the Customs Union's external borders and coordinated foreign economic policies toward third countries within the framework of the developing customs union in line with the Treaty on Economic Union.

4. With the aim of securing uninterrupted payments between economic entities in the two states on the basis of mutual convertibility of their national currencies, the presidents will instruct the central banks to take concrete measures to expand and deepen their internal currency markets and to increase their cooperation in developing effective payment systems.

Kazakhstan and Russia will undertake practical steps to coordinate tax and pricing policy, to allow authorized banks access to their domestic markets, to apply an exchange rate that is determined by supply and demand, to support stable exchange rates for their national currencies, as well as other measures designed to develop a common financial market.

5. The presidents consider it necessary for the state to support direct ties between economic entities and cooperation in various economic sectors. To this end, assistance will be given in setting up industrial finance groups

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and in developing progressive forms of cooperation in the production, investment, commercial, financial, and credit fields, and favorable conditions for mutual access and protection for investments, as well as for the acquisition of real estate.

6. The presidents note that one of the most important areas for further Russian-Kazakhstan cooperation should be the creation of a scientific and technological area which would enable more rational use to be made of the intellectual, scientific, and technical potential of both countries.

7. With the aim of solving the problem of providing the national economies and populations of both countries with heat and energy, Kazakhstan and Russia will deepen their cooperation in this sphere. This cooperation will include the joint production of fuel.

The presidents will promote the creation of integrated transnational Russian-Kazakhstan companies with state involvement in the fuel and energy sectors of both countries, including gas and oil transportation.

8. The presidents attach great importance to improving cooperation in the field of transport, communications, telecommunications, and information exchange, and to further developing and rationally using the joint systems and structures which have formed in these areas.

To this end the parties will mutually provide free transit for goods, means of transport, and services, and freedom of passage for citizens of both states through their territories without customs duties, taxes, or other levies relating to transit.

9. Kazakhstan and Russia will unwaveringly observe the rights and freedoms of the individual. They will not allow discrimination on ethnic or other grounds. They will develop contacts between citizens of the two countries, and scientific and cultural exchanges.

10. The presidents favor their countries' active involvement in forming a collective security system for the Commonwealth of Independent States on the basis of the 15 May 1992 Treaty on Collective Security.

The presidents confirm that the 28 March 1994 Treaty on Military Cooperation between the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation and fulfillment of the obligations which the parties undertook under this Treaty, represent a long-term basis for interaction between Kazakhstan and Russia within the framework of a common strategic military area to ensure their military security, including their nuclear security.

Kazakhstan and Russia will continue to work from the principle that the armed forces of one party may use facilities and buildings located on the territory of the other party, bearing in mind the aspiration of both parties to use their defense potentials in the interest of ensuring mutual security.

To this end, from 1995 the parties will begin forming unified armed forces based on the principles of joint planning, training, and use of troops (forces), and provision of weapons and military equipment for them, and under conditions where they will be stationed without hindrance, operate, enjoy most-favored status, and be subject to their national taxation system on the territories of both states within the common strategic military area.

11. In the interests of ensuring reliable security for the two states, Kazakhstan and Russia will expand their cooperation within the framework of the common strategic defense area which develops, in equipping the state armed forces of states, organizing cooperation in military production, and standardizing weaponry.

12. In conditions where the borders between the two states are open, the protection of their external borders is their common task, and will be carried out jointly in accordance with the interests of their own security and the collective security of the Commonwealth of Independent States. To this end a Treaty on Joint Protection of External Borders, envisaging the creation of a joint command for the border troops, will be signed by 10 February 1995 by the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation.

13. The presidents have confirmed their policy of close interaction between Kazakhstan and Russia on foreign policy, the intention being to coordinate their positions on the main international and regional problems of mutual interest, and to coordinate their actions within the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation, and other international organizations.

The parties will make efforts to ensure that the CIS develops as an authoritative international regional organization.

14. The president of the Republic of Kazakhstan and president of the Russian Federation stress that cooperation between Kazakhstan and Russia has a long-term, firm basis. They declare their firm intention to continue closely coordinating the efforts of their states to implement the course of rapprochement between their countries. They express confidence that the accords which have been achieved will reliably serve the basic interests of the peoples of both states.

[Signed] For the Republic of Kazakhstan: Nursultan Nazarbayev

[Signed] For the Russian Federation: Boris Yeltsin

[Dated] Moscow, 20 January 1995

Tokayev To Discuss Chechnya During U.S. Visit

LD2401194895 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1731 GMT 24 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov and others]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Chechen conflict is one of the items on the agenda for a forthcoming visit to the United States by Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev, a senior Kazakh Foreign Ministry official said.

"Kazakhstan takes the position that the conflict in Chechnya must be resolved in a peaceful way, but on the basis of the principle of a united Russia," Bolat Khusaynov told Interfax on Tuesday [24 January].

During his visit, scheduled for January 25-28, Tokayev plans to meet U.S. Vice President Al Gore, Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Defense Secretary William Perry. With Christopher, the Kazakh minister will discuss all aspects of the two countries' relations, including trade, economic cooperation, security matters and conversion of the Central Asian republic's military industry to civilian production, Khusaynov said.

He said Tokayev was also due to have a tete-a-tete with U.N. secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali.

Kyrgyzstan

Reinforcements Being Sent to Tajik-Afghan Border

LD2501090595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0730 GMT 25 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Mainayev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bishkek January 25 TASS—The number of Kyrgyz nationals guarding the Tajik-Afghan border in the CIS peacemaking troops is rising. According to informed sources in the Kyrgyz Defence Ministry, another 220 guards and commanders from Bishkek will be sent to the Khorog border outpost. Observers say that this is being done on the insistence of the Russian Federal Border Guard Service and in context of the aggravating situation on the border.

In compliance with intergovernmental accords signed in Minsk in March 1993, Kyrgyzstan is obliged to despatch 500 guards to the CIS peacemaking contingent. All this time there were about 300 young men from the republic serving on the Tajik-Afghan border. Only now, after despatching a new detachment, the number of Kyrgyz guards will reach the level fixed by the Minsk agreements.

The Kyrgyz batallion has already been twice forced to use firearms against border violators. According to a number of local observers, this may aggravate relations between the Kyrgyz and Tajik nationals. They all remember that during disorders in the Batkennsk Valley in 1989, which were due to a border dispute, the blood was shed. Besides this, calls are echoing not to drag Kyrgyzstan into an "alien war".

Akayev Hopes Interior Ministry Can Eliminate Corruption

LD2401175295 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1356 GMT 23 Jan 95

[Address to the nation by President Askar Akayev; place and date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Many complaints come in from all over the republic about the payment of pensions, benefits, and wages being held up. Some candidates exploit these kinds of cases to whip up passions and win brownie points.

We have to agree that such criticism is well founded. However, it is more useful to look at who is responsible for these areas in the 1994 budget. The reponsibility for the current delay in payments lies mainly with the local authorities. Some smart operators put the money into circulation, and local leaders must answer for this.

We have now begun actively pursuing a policy of rotating personnel; where necessary we remove a leader who has gone too far. From now on there will be no mercy for those who have embarked on the criminal path of enriching themselves at the people's expense.

Other very alarming problems are corruption and the public order situation. In order to improve the moral health of society we must stand out firmly against crime and fight resolutely against corruption, which has become the true plague of our time.

The entire population must be mobilized to fight this evil, and controls must be put in place from top to bottom. Here we are investing great hopes in the new leadership of the Interior Ministry.

President Says National Currency to Hold Value

LD2401100595 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1000 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Askar Akayev has stated at a meeting with media chiefs that whatever the circumstances, the som's exchange rate during 1995 will remain at the level of 11 soms to the dollar, in other words, at approximately the present level. This is to be explained by the fact that 31 percent of the National Banks' assets are already secured by gold holdings, while 20 percent of the currency is supported by treasury bills of the U.S. Federal Reserve system, the most prestigious securities in the world. Thus over half of our national currency has firm backing.

Yet in May 1993, when the republic was the first in the CIS to introduce its own som, it was effectively backed by nothing except promises from the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. It was effectively mere pieces of paper, but today the som is one of the most stable and firmest currencies of the world's new soft currencies.

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Tajikistan

Rakhmanov on Security Guards, Weapons Collection

LD2401150495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1322 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] DUSHANBE, Jan 24 (Interfax)—President Emomali Rakhmanov of Tajikistan has demanded that law- enforcement agencies comply with his order to remove security guards from all Tajik officials except himself and the parliament. He was speaking at a republican meeting in Dushanbe on Tuesday [24 January].

The power ministries are given 10 days to consider the question of issuing weapon licences to Tajik officials.

There will be no calm in the country unless all weapons kept illegally since the outbreak of the 1992 civil war are collected, the president said.

He proposed tough measures against those possessing illegal weapons who refused to give them up and proposed taking stock at and ensuring safety of power ministry arsenals. The interior and security ministers are ordered to carry out an on-going campaign of voluntary handing in of weapons.

A large amount of illegal weapons and ammunition have been turned in since the presidential decree on voluntary surrender of arms came into force on December 2, 1993 it was pointed out at the meeting.

The bulk of illegal weapons is kept by the population of Gorno- Badakhshan and eastern regions bordering on Afghanistan.

President Calls For Population To Disarm

LD2401132895 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Today a republican conference took place in the presidential palace, which was attended by the chairmen of regions, towns, and districts, and the employees of the republican law enforcement bodies. Here is a report by our correspondent Amirkhoni Shohkhon.

[Shohkhon] One issue was discussed at the conference, that was the issue relating to the course of the implementation of the edict by President Imomali Rakhmanov of 2 December 1994 on disarmament. [passage omitted] President Rakhmanov delivered a speech at the end of the conference.

[Begin Rakhmanov recording] If we are really determined to ensure peace and tranquillity in our country in 1995, to use our internal possibilities, and to cooperate with foreign countries in order to halt the decrease in production, first of all we have to confiscate the firearms that are illegally kept by the population as soon as possible. I have stressed before and I am going to repeat again that while the citizens are carrying firearms, we can neither ensure people's confidence in the government nor the world community's confidence in our nation. This is a vitally important issue for Tajikistan, as the construction of the democratic and law- governed society is impossible without ensuring legality, law and order, implementation of the constitutional standards, and security guarantees for citizens. That is why one of my first edicts as president was on voluntary surrender and confiscation of firearms, military equipment and kit from the population of the republic. We have all the necessary possibilities to successfully implement this edict. The government structures on all levels have been established. [words indistinct]

On the other hand, the talks with the opposition are continuing. This can positively influence the process of disarmament. We are on the eve of an important political campaign, elections to the Supreme Assembly and local assemblies. The further directions of society's development and the country's international authority depends on the results of these elections. That is why it is important that the elections take place in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity, and without any kind of pressure or use of force by individuals and separate groups. All these measures can positively influence the people's moods, and strengthen their hope and confidence to a peaceful life and a bright future.

We have to properly use all our possibilities, get rid of indifference and idleness, and start implementation of disarmament with a high sense of responsibility. I am confident that we will implement this vitally important task for the republic. [end recording]

Authorities Blamed for Food Shortages

LD2301141695

[FBIS Editorial Report] Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik at 1100 GMT on 23 January broadcasts a three-minute report with a letter from a resident of Tajikistan who criticizes the Tajik authorities over food shortages in the republic.

In particular the letter says: "I remember President Emomali Rakhmanov, in his pre-election speech on providing the population with foodstuffs, promised the residents with conviction, citing figures, that the government of the republic would not let the residents of the towns and districts experience food shortages, particularly shortages of bread and flour. We believe the words of our leader. Our confidence is based on the fact that everyday radio and television and other media broadcast fresh reports on the grain and flour wagons entering the republic. But the worse side of the matter is that even after so many wagons of grain and flour enter the republic, we do not have enough bread. People who want to get hold of bread still stand in a line for hours, then get hold of a loaf of bread that costs 165 rubles for 300 or 400 rubles.

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"The question—where does this flour and grain that enters the republic go—has one answer. Weak supervision by administrative bodies."

The letter says further that the price of one sack of flour has reached 60,000 rubles as the grain and flour that is dispatched to the republic is not being distributed to the residents directly and the lack of strict supervision by the government on this issue may cause dissatisfaction among the people.

Official, Afghan District Representative Discuss Hostages

LD2301123395 Dushanbe Radio Tajikistan Network in Tajik 1100 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A meeting between Alimahmad Niyozmahmadov, the chairman of Gorno-Badakhshan Autonomous Oblast and the workers took place in Darvaz district.

Three main issues, the protection of the border, the process of disarmament, and the repatriation of refugees to their permanent places of living, were discussed at the meeting.

According to the leaders and inhabitants of the district, these days the issue of the situation on the border is solved. All the illegally-held firearms by the inhabitants of Darvaz district have been confiscated. The issue of repatriation of refugees is not completely solved, however the government is taking all necessary measures to solve this issue.

During his visit, Niyozmahmadov also met the representatives of the Darvaz government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and discussed the issues relating to the soonest return of those inhabitants of the oblast who were taken hostage by the forces of the Tajik opposition on 2 January of this year.

As the representatives of Darvaz Province of Afghanistan reported, the hostages are in good health. It is thought that bilateral talks will take place to resolve this issue. We express the hope that the hostages will return home healthy.

Turkmenistan

Iran's Velayati Discusses Trade With Officials

LD2401175895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Mr. Velayati, our country's foreign affairs minister, and the vice president of Turkmenistan met in Ashgabat, the capital of the Republic of Turkmenistan, today to discuss ways to expand bilateral ties.

Turkmenistan's trade, customs, banking, and communications officials were present at the meeting, which reviewed the provision of the necessary facilities for the transport of goods through the two countries' border posts, as well as ways to expand banking services for commercial exchanges between the two countries.

Niyazov Discusses Gas Pipeline

LD2401120695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, currently in Turkmenistan, this morning met President Niyazov in Ashgabat. During the course of this meeting they discussed expansion of commercial and economic cooperation, progress made in laying the pipeline to transfer Turkmenistan's gas, and also the two countries' political views on various regional and international issues. It was stressed that the two countries are politically determined and willing to expand ties further.

According to a report by the Central News Unit, Niyazov expressed satisfaction with his country's politico-economic relations with Iran and also the exchange of agricultural know-how between the two sides. He described as positive the outcome of the agreements reached during the Ankara meeting on provision of the fund to pipe Turkmenistan gas to Europe via Iran and Turkey. Once again he stressed that this pipeline should go through Iranian territory.

Niyazov spoke about his visit to Iran in the very near future, which will be undertaken within the framework of regular meetings with President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and described as significant the exchange of information with his excellency [Rafsanjani] on bilateral and multilateral relations.

Velayati, for his part, expressed satisfaction with the organizing and outcome of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] foreign ministers' fifth session in Ashgabat.

Referring to the issue of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of trade and transport, our country's foreign minister asked for provision of facilities to ease the passage of goods- carrying trucks from Iran to Turkmenistan and from there to the other Central Asian republics. It has been agreed that the two countries' representatives should hold separate talks in Ashgabat and Tehran to draw a specific plan for traffic movements through the four frontier customs offices in Sarakhs, Bajgiran, and Lotfabad, in the Khorasan Province, and the frontier customs office of Pol in the Mazandaran Province.

ECO Cooperation Projects Adopted

LD2501094095 Ashgabat TURKMEN PRESS in Russian 1210 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ashgabat, 23 Jan (TURKMEN PRESS)—The fifth session of the Council of

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Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] completed its work here today. In the Turkmen capital the supreme legislative body of this international organization, which Turkmenistan joined two years ago, agreed the main documents to be signed in Islamabad in March this year, where the third meeting of heads of the states is due to be held.

In the three days in Ashgabat, cooperation projects were adopted within the ECO framework, which embraces over 300 million people. Their lives and movement across the territory of the region, covering an area of over 7 million sq km, will be considerably eased by the implementation of the agreements on transit trade, on simplified visa procedures and on the creation of a regional bank for trade and development. The participants in the meeting decided to set up a reinsurance company and agreed matters relating to establishing an air company and a joint shipping corporation. Memorandums of mutual understanding between the ECO and the UN Development Program [UNDP] and the UN Drug Control Program [UNDCP] were approved at the Ashgabat meeting. Participants in the meeting backed Pakistan's proposal to setting up an association of ECO speakers and members of parliament.

We have achieved full unanimity on all issues, ECO Secretary- General Shamshad Ahmad told a news conference. He emphasized the historical importance of the current meeting, held for the first time in this young independent state.

Later the heads of the delegations, the heads of the foreign ministries of the 10 ECO countries, had a meeting with the Ashgabat public in the Mekan Palace. The eminent guests pointed out the significance of the integration process which has begun within the ECO framework, and the legal foundations for which they discussed in Ashgabat. [Passage omitted]

An atmosphere of mutually advantageous cooperation and confidence between the ECO countries was the main result of the meeting, participants said. The ECO members will advance together toward the third millennium, supporting each other economically and undergoing a spiritual revival.

ECO Foreign Ministers Fail To Sign Several Agreements

LD2301213995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1855 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, Jan 23 (INTERFAX)—The foreign ministries of member-states of the Economic Collaboration [Cooperation] Organization (ECO) failed to agree on a number of documents planned to be signed at their meeting in Ashgabat on January 21-23.

The only approved document was an agreement-on cooperation with the UN in coordinating economic activities and controlling drug trafficking.

The ministers told a news conference in Ashgabat Monday that signing the agreements to create ECO air, marine and insurance companies and an ECO trade and development bank had been put off. Moreover, the ministers did not sign the agreements on transit trade within the ECO and simplified visa exchange for businessmen from ECO member-states, including Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Afghanistan, former Soviet Central Asian republics and Azerbaijan.

The documents are expected to be signed at an ECO summit this March. The news conference was told that some ECO member- states needed more time to scrutinize the draft documents. Nevertheless, the parties agreed that the ECO Trade and Development Bank will be based in Istanbul and open its branches in Iran and Pakistan in six months after it starts to operate.

Azerbaijani Official on ECO, Ties With Iran

LD2301173395 Tehran IRNA in English 1710 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ashgabat, Jan. 23, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan Albert Salamov said here today that the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) would be a success if it implemented the agreements it had already signed, and if it improved mutual trust between its constituent members.

In an interview with IRNA on the sidelines of the ECO foreign ministerial meeting, he said ECO members should increase their cooperation, as well as ease the formalities for issuance of visas within the organization.

Salamov said relations between countries in general is a must in the modern world, and commented that restrictions as adopted by certain governments betrays the absence of mutual trust. He considered Iran-Azerbaijan relations as being highly friendly, adding that the commonalities between the two nations were a good backing for their relations.

ECO groups Iran, Turkey, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.

Uzbekistan

Uzbek Defense Minister Interviewed

MM2401101595 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Jan 95 First Edition p 6

[Interview with Defense Minister R.U. Akhmedov by Tursunbay Batyrberkov from "newspaper within a newspaper" section devoted to Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO; place and date of interview not stated: "Three Years of Compulsory Service; How Organizational Development of Republican Armed Forces Is Proceeding"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The people of independent Uzbekistan have celebrated a holiday—the day of the motherland's defenders. The republic's defense minister, Lieutenant General R.U. Akhmedov, describes the achievements and problems of the republic's armed forces.

[Batyrberkov] Our state's armed forces are still young. What has changed in their aims and tasks in the past three years?

[Akhmedov] Throughout these three years the foundation of the young independent state's defense capability has been laid. You only have to note that in 1993-94, defined as the first stage of the armed forces' reform, their staff structure was optimized and improved, military units, institutions, and military educational establishments were reformed, and a harmonious system for officer cadres training and the instruction and education of servicemen and social protection for servicemen and members of their families were created. Here the vigilant performance of alert duty and all other types of services, daily combat training, and the improvement of professional skill have remained an unconditional requirement for every military collective.

[Batyrberkov] Comrade Lieutenant General, what are the armed forces engaged in now and what successes have they achieved?

[Akhmedov] I should like to express words of thanks and gratitude to the entire personnel of the armed forces for their selfless martial labor for the benefit of our ardently loved motherland.

All units maintain constant combat readiness and are improving forms and methods of instruction and methods of carrying out combat operations with a consideration for the requirements of defense doctrine. Special thanks to our officers, who are fulfilling their professional duty and conveying their rich army experience to a new generation of Uzbekistan's soldiers.

It is no accident that after the Supreme Council approved the title "Uzbekistan kakhramoni," the orders of "Mustakillik" and "Dustlik," and the "Shukhrat" and "Zhasorat" medals, the first on whose breasts the Motherland's awards were to shine were representatives of the Armed Forces—Major General V. Makhmudov, Colonels M. Madaminov and A. Kharlamov, Lieutenant Colonels V. Braginskiy and A. Pokrovskiy, Majors R. Zhalolov and Kh. Rakhimov, and many others.

We have many generals, officers, ensigns, sergeants, and soldiers who, continuing our people's best traditions, are competently and knowledgeably resolving combat training tasks and questions of the personnel's training and education. Among them I want to name Major General I. Ergashev, Colonel Sh. Dzhurayev, Lieutenant Colonels A. Akramov, R. Talipov, and S. Kudryashov, Majors R. Khasanov and A. Rudenko, Captain L. Tulyaganov, and Senior Lieutenant R. Ikramov. They, like the overwhelming majority of servicemen, are characterized by a high level of professionalism and a conscientious attitude toward fulfilling their official duties.

[Batyrberkov] Like any state structure, in the present transitional period the Armed Forces have their problems. How are they being resolved?

[Akhmedov] I should like first of all to dwell on the human factor in the army and on a key avenue like the servicemen's social and legal protection. Through the efforts of the republic's president and Supreme Council many questions of social protection have been resolved.

The officer corps' housing problem has been virtually resolved. There has been a considerable increase in the salaries of officers and ensigns and servicemen on compulsory service. Through the joint efforts of the organs of state power and the Defense Ministry catering and medical and trade services have been organized at the proper level for servicemen and members of their families and their own enterprises have been created for the production and issue of the output necessary for the Armed Forces and of consumer goods. As of this year there will be a gradual transition toward the new uniform.

The Cabinet of Ministers 3 October 1994 decree "on additional benefits for servicemen on compulsory service and members of their families." It reinforced socially the position of the young man who is on compulsory service, not only rating his martial labor highly but also creating a basis for further education for the soldier and tax benefits for his parents. The decision on free mail dispatches for them and their parents was also a manifestation of the constant concern of the republic's leadership for soldiers and sergeants on compulsory service.

In resolving tasks of military organizational development and the provision of amenities for the troops we constantly feel the support and direct participation of the local organs of power and public organizations.

[Batyrberkov] Rustam Urmanovich, please tell us how matters stand right now with regard to international military cooperation, including with the CIS armies?

[Akhmedov] In creating its own armed forces the Republic of Uzbekistan initially proceeded from the premise that they would be a component of all the CIS' defense forces. It is from these positions that we assessed and continue to assess the treaty "on collective security" concluded in Tashkent in May 1992 and signed by the heads of the CIS countries—Armenia, Kazakhstan,

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Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan. In 1993 Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Belarus acceded to the treaty.

The personnel of the separate motorized rifle battalion which with servicemen from Russia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan is covering the CIS' southern border in Tajikistan is fulfilling its military duty with dignity and honor.

The year 1995 will be a key one for us in implementing the second stage of military reform. It is planned to complete the reform of the Armed Forces and achieve new, higher quality results in combat training. This year, following the Dzhizak higher military aviation school, the Republic of Uzbekistan Armed Forces Academy will open its doors.

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Armenia

Foreign Minister Leaves for CIS Meeting in Moscow

NC2401184395 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An Armenian delegation headed by Foreign Minister Vahan Papazian left for Moscow on 24 January to take part in the regular session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the CIS countries.

Gurgen Hovhannesyan, acting head of the Foreign Ministry department for the CIS countries, and Karen Nazaryan, head of the Foreign Ministry Secretariat, are included in the delegation.

The Foreign Ministry press service reports that the pact presented by Kazakhstan on the maintenance of peace and stability in CIS, and a number of questions relating to the observance of the 50th anniversary of the World War II victory and to preparations for the international congress on social development are expected to be discussed at the Russian capital.

Power Shortage Halts Train Service to Georgia

NC2401171395 Yerevan ARAGIL ELECTRONIC NEWS BULLETIN in English 0947 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Yerevan ("HAYASTANI HANRAPETUTYUN" daily), 01/24/95—Deputy Chairman of the Armenian Railway Department Artush Danielyan reported that operation of passenger trains from Yerevan to Tbilisi and Vardenis has stopped.

This is caused by technical problems, particularly by interruptions of power supply. The Georgian side is unable to provide power supply on its territory. The same reason stops operation of the Yerevan-Vardenis electric train. He said it is hard to speak about any concrete terms concerning opening up the routes again.

Parties Reject U.S., Russian Stance on ARF Suspension

NC2401182595 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1615 GMT 24 Jan 95

["Statement issued by the Republican Party of Armenia, Armenian Pannational Movement, Christian Democratic Party of Armenia, Intellectual Armenia Party, Ramkavar Liberal Party, Ramkavar Liberal Democratic Party, and Social Democratic Hnchakian Party"; date not given—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. State Department and some deputies of the Russian Federation State Duma have issued statements in connection with the Armenian president's 28 December decree and the 13 January decision of the Armenian Supreme Court on the temporary suspension of the Armenian Revolutionary Federation's [ARF] activities in Armenia.

Such statements are unacceptable to the political forces who have struggled to promote statehood, democracy, and universal human values. They not only interfere in the internal affairs of a sovereign country, within whose legislative framework the decisions of the Armenian president and Supreme Court were made, but in effect they patronize the international drug business and terrorism. It is important to a democratic state that the political organizations operating in it be guided by and work according to democratic principles. Therefore, the advice to conduct a dialogue between the state and this illegal party is incomprehensible. It is also an inconceivable and sad fact that the ARF, which claims to promote a nationalistic ideology, is being supported by those Communist nationalists in the Russian Federation's State Duma who are known for their anti-Karabakh activities.

In resolutely reiterating our position expressed in our statement of 31 December 1994 regarding the Armenian president's 28 December decree, we condemn any patronage of the narcotics trade or terrorism, which endangers the rights of the republic's citizens.

Spokesman on U.S. Comment on Dashnaksutyun Ban

LD2401231095 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1401 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yerevan, 24 Jan—In the opinion of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs,"it is more likely" that the U.S. State Department's statement with regard to the suspension of the activities of the Dashnaksutyun Armenian opposition party "was made because of the internal political considerations, rather than a desire to make an appropriate assessment of the situation" in the republic, an official spokesman of the Armenian foreign affairs department stated today. He was asked by the ITAR-TASS correspondent to comment on a statement by the U.S. State Department on 18 January on the Armenian president's decree and the subsequent decision by the Supreme Court of the republic to halt the activities of the Dashnak party.

Speaking at a briefing, Aram Safaryan, the head of the press and public relations department of the Armenian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said: "The Ministry of Foreign Affairs regrets that in the State Department's statement the essence and contents of the well- known criminal case were overshadowed by general opinions on the freedom of speech and democracy suitable for Armenia." Safaryan noted that the State Department's statement also contains some inaccuracies which, in his opinion, "probably resulted from being overhasty." The statement claimed that the question of the Dashnaksutyun party was subject to a court hearing, whereas the case has been tried by the Armenian Supreme Court and the sentencing is postponed until the case has been handed over to the court by the Procuracy.

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The Armenian Foreign Ministry spokesman added that Armenia will be making no written statement concerning the U.S. State Department's position.

In its statement, the U.S. State Department's representative urged Armenia to hold negotiations with the banned party, with the aim of allowing it to resume its activities as soon as possible. Meanwhile, in his statement of 28 December, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan blamed the Dashnaks for creating an internal party structure which, he said, is connected with extortion, terrorism, and drug dealing.

On Monday night [23 January], six Armenian political parties—members of the right-wing alliance, including the ruling Armenian National Movement—condemned the statement issued by the U.S. State Department and 11 Russian State Duma members. They view the position taken by the U.S. and Russian Federation representatives as intervention in the republic's internal affairs.

Karabakh Denies Existence of ARF Military Unit

NC2401195695 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Press and Information Department made the following clarification to ARMENPRES on 24 January in connection with claims made during a rally in Yerevan on 20 January to the effect that the Armenian Revolutionary Federation has a military company in Nagorno-Karabakh and that it has not been withdrawn despite the temporary suspension of the activities of that party in Armenia: There have been no party-based military units in the NKR Defense Army for almost two years now. The formation and activity of such units are banned by the relevant NKR legislative acts, which are strictly applied.

Vice President Visits Nagorno-Karabakh

NC2401214395 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1900 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Vice President Gagik Harutyunyan left for Nagorno-Karabakh on 24 January. The Nagorno- Karabakh Republic [NKR] presidential press service has informed ARMENPRES that matters relating to the role of the all-Armenian Armenia Fund played in the stabilization and development of the NKR economy are expected to be discussed during the meetings with the leadership of the republic.

The Armenian vice president is expected to pay visits to Askeran, Hadrut, and Martuni regions, where he will participate (?in ceremonies) commissioning a number of installations constructed with the Fund's direct assistance.

Manushak Petrosian, director of the executive board of Armenia Fund, left for Stepanakert with Harutyunyan.

The Armenian delegation had a meeting with NKR President Robert Kocharyan this evening. NKR Prime Minister Leonard Petrosyan took part in the meeting.

Azerbaijan

Pakistani Foreign Minister Arrives in Baku

LD2401141795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—The Pakistani Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali arrived in Baku Tuesday [24 January].

During his three day visit he is expected to meet President Geydar Aliyev, Foreign Minister Gasan Gasanov, members of parliament and business representatives.

The main subjects of the Pakistani-Azeri talks will be the expansion of political, economic and cultural ties.

Discusses Ties, Kashmir With Aliyev

BK2501031795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali called on Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev in Baku yesterday. The two sides agreed to increase cooperation in various fields. On behalf of the president and the prime minister, Foreign Minister Asif Ahmad Ali thanked President Aliyev for Azerbaijan's solid support to Pakistan on the Kashmir dispute at the recent Islamic Conference Organization summit in Casablanca. He apprised the Azerbaijani president of Pakistan's desire to commence talks with India for the settlement of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with UN resolutions. He stressed that India should halt its atrocious and repressive activities in the occupied valley to make the talks meaningful. Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali also apprised President Aliyev of the grave security situation in South Asia that has been created by the arms race launched by India.

Americans May Leave Cartel if Iran Included

NC2401151395 Baku TURAN in English 1005 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku, January 24 (TURAN)—If Azerbaijan agrees to Iran's participation in the oil consortium and gives Tehran 5 per cent of share in the contract, the American oil companies will cease to be the members of the consortium, a highranking source from the Presidential staff told TURAN. The U.S. Ambassador to Azerbaijan, Richard Kauzlarich, recalled that during his meeting with President Aliyev. However, the American Embassy neither acknowledged not refuted this information.

In November 1994 after his visit to Azerbaijan Iran's Oil Minister, Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, told journalists in Tehran that in Baku he signed the agreement on Iran's

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joining the consortium on offshore development of the oil-fields "Azeri", "Chirag" and "Guneshli". He also said that Iran will receive 25 per cent of the whole of Azeri share in the project in exchange for the financing of the remaining 75 per cent. Aqazadeh said that this sum must total $1.5 billion (25 per cent of the Azeri share is equal to 5 per cent of the whole project).

However, the speaker of the Azeri Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, during one of his press-conferences said that Baku and Tehran signed the protocol on intentions but not the agreement on Iran's joining the consortium.

At the same time the American oil companies sent the letter to SOCAR [State Oil Company of the Azerbaijan Republic], in which they expressed the impossibility of their [remainder of item not received]

Foreign Minister Discusses CIS Draft Pact

NC2401173095 Baku TURAN in English 1052 GMT 24 Jan 95

["Pact on Protection Peace and Stability Will Be Discussed During the Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the CIS"—TURAN headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (January 23) TURAN—On Wednesday on January 25 a session of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the countries-members of the CIS is to open in Moscow. The draft of "the pact on protection of peace and stability at the territory of the CIS countries" will be discussed at the session, TURAN correspondent in Moscow was told by the sources in Russian Ministry. "A pact was prepared at the initiative of Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan supported that initiative," TURAN was told by the Azerbaijan's Foreign Minister before his flight to Moscow.

"After the destroy of the USSR we faced the fact that some countries interfere the internal affairs of the others, and the territorial integrity of one or the other country is under doubt and sometimes the occupation of one country by the other member of the CIS takes place," noted Minister. "The document provides that one country should not form and arm separatist forces at the territory of the other country and should not interfere the internal affairs of the other country," said Gasanov.

According to the Minister there are states opposing that document. "For example, Armenia opposes adoption of such document as it is aimed against the policy which Armenia is conducting," noted he.

Gasan Gasanov said that during discussion of the Agreement on Collective Security of the countries-members of the CIS Azerbaijan rose a question on the necessity of including in the document an item on the collective actions for prevention the aggression of one member of the CIS towards the other. According to Gasanov this question remains open due to the protest of Armenia. The Minister noted that this provision was not included in this pact either. "But we hope that adopti [remainder of item not received]

Gasanov: CIS Must Cooperate Against Aggression

LD2401140495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] BAKU, Jan. 24 (INTERFAX)—Azerbaijan supports Kazakhstan's proposal to sign a pact on maintaining peace and stability in CIS states.

"The discussion of the pact will dominate a session of the CIS Foreign Ministers Council in Moscow on January 25," Gasan Gasanov, Azerbaijan's foreign minister, declared in Baku before flying off to the Russian capital.

He stressed that not a single earlier-adopted CIS document had envisaged collective actions against a Commonwealth member-state, even in the case that the latter acts as an aggressor.

Meanwhile, as Gasanov pointed out, "after the disintegration of the former USSR there have been conflicts where one former union republic meddles in the internal affairs of another republic, supporting separatists operating on its territory, and at times even occupy part of it."

Gasanov believes that "these incidents should find their expression in CIS documents," which "should envisage interaction between CIS countries in repelling not only external but also internal aggression from a Commonwealth member-state," he stressed.

Georgia

Envoy Says Russia, Georgia Share Interests

LD2401194795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1815 GMT 24 Jan 95

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: reports by diplomatic correspondents Aleksandr Korzun, Igor Porshnev, Yevgeniy Terekhov, and others]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The newly appointed Georgian ambassador to Russia said he would make "serious changes" in the work of his embassy, which "will henceforth be taking every step to make political and economic relations between the two countries more active."

"Russia and Georgia have had the same strategic interests for centuries," Vazha Lordkipanidze said in an interview with Interfax in Tbilisi. "This is a good basis for the further development of bilateral relations. But the model underlying them must be changed to meet new developments and objectives." Drawing up such a model is one of his main tasks as ambassador, he said.

A no less important task is to restore scientific, cultural and educational links between the two countries, the

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ambassador continued. "It has always been a special hope for the best members of the Russian and Georgian intelligentsia that (the two nations) should come closer together culturally, and I will spare no effort to make this happen," he said.

CIS Assembly Strives To Revive Georgian-Abkhaz Dialogue

LD2401142195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1043 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, Jan 24 (INTERFAX)—A peace- making delegation of the CIS Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and the Russian Federation Council arrived in Tbilisi Tuesday [24 January] to find ways of resuming the Georgian-Abkhaz dialogue on a peaceful settlement to the conflict in Abkhazia.

Interfax was told by the press center of the Georgian head of state that the delegation is led by the Chairman of the CIS Committee of the Federation Council Vadim Gustov.

During their four day visit Russian deputies will meet with leaders of Georgia and Abkhazia as well as with the command of the Russian peace-keeping force in the conflict zone.

On Wednesday the delegation is expected to travel to Abkhazia.

A senior official from the administration of Eduard Shevardnadze told Interfax that the deputies will try to influence the Abkhaz which is insisting on Abkhazia being recognized as an independent state [sentence as received]. He said the most the Georgian side can agree to is to recognize Abkhazia as an autonomous area within a federal Georgian state.

Abkhaz Leader Sends Fighters, Weapons to Chechnya

LD2401155895 Tbilisi IBERIA in Georgian 1255 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sukhumi, 24 Jan—Abkhaz separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba has recently sent about 1,000 armed Abkhaz militants from the mount of Atoni [near Akhali Atoni] to fight in Chechnya.

Abkhaz separatists are smuggling arms into the Republic of Chechnya from a heliport near Akhali Atoni.

Refugees From Abkhazia Resume Protest at Inguri River

LD2401182695 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1108 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Zugdidi [no date as received]—On 23 January the refugees from Abkhazia resumed their protest at the Inguri River following the suspension of the process of the refugees' return to their homes, for which the Abkhaz side is being held responsible. The organization committee intends to block off the highway.

Jailed Former Defense Minister Starts Hunger Strike

LD2501094295 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 2021 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tengiz Kitovani, the leader of the Georgian National-Liberation Front and former defense minister, has gone on a hunger strike. Kitovani was arrested in connection with the setting up of an illegal armed formation which was to resume hostilities in Abkhazia.

A statement issued by Kitovani says that he is against Eduard Shevardnadze's policies, which, according to him, are leading the country to catastrophe.

Air Force Commander Held on Illegal Arms Deal

MK2501084095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 25 Jan 95 p 1

[POSTFACTUM report: "Georgian Air Force Commander Arrested"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Georgian Prosecutor's Office yesterday officially stated that Valeriy Nakopiya, commander of the republic's Air Force, has been arrested. He is charged with involvement in an illegal deal in 1992 in which a large amount of arms including two Su-25 planes were sold outside Georgia.

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Estonia

World Bank to Provide $18 Million Loan

LD2501114395 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0700 GMT 25 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The World Bank is to provide a 13-year loan amounting to $18 million to Estonia, at an average interest of 7.09 percent. Medical equipment for laboratories and for teaching purposes, as well as computer equipment will be purchased with the loan.

Swiss Asked for Assistance To Equip Armed Forces

LD2401212795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2025 GMT 24 Jan 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Geneva January 24 TASS—Estonia has requested Switzerland for assistance in equipment of its Armed Forces. The request was conveyed today to Swiss President Kaspar Villiger [title as received] by Estonian leader Lennart Meri who was to Switzerland on a brief visit. According to the official representative of the military department, Villiger promised to study the request.

The Estonian president told a news conference upon the meeting completion that his state is not sure of its safety bearing in mind it has a powerful and, in the Estonian opinion, unstable neighbour of Russia, reports the Swiss ATS news agency. He said that the relations between the Estonian Government and the Russian minority are no longer tense. The increase of living standards in Estonia results in Russians' requests for naturalization, said the president.

Police Deny Alleged KGB Ties of Defense League Chief

WS2401161595 Tallinn BNS in English 1302 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 23, BNS—The Estonian security police in a statement released to the press on Monday [23 January] rejected allegations by some news media about possible KGB ties of the head of the Defense League paramilitary organization, Johannes Kert.

"The existing documents provide no grounds to claim that Kert was an agent of the former KGB or collaborated in any way with intelligence or security organs of a foreign country," says the statement signed by Defense Police Chief Juri Pihl.

Some newspapers in Estonia late last year published a document allegedly granting Kert access to Soviet classified documents in 1982. According to the RAHVA HAAL daily newspaper, a departmental head of the KGB on Apr. 26, 1982, had put a stamp on the document and formally authorized Kert's using of secret documents. The document was found in Kert's file kept at a former Soviet army's conscription office in Tartu, Estonia.

The Estonian security police has carried out an investigation into the circumstances under which the paper was drawn up. Officials have also questioned Kert and other persons concerned.

After the investigation and analysis of documents held at the Estonian State Archives, the Defense Police stated that the permit issued to Kert was related either to his work as a high school teacher of military disciplines or his service in the Soviet Army in 1983-85.

Kert, who heads Estonia's nationwide volunteer Defense League paramilitary organization, has said the 1982 paper was a record of a KGB check into his activities and not an access permit to classifed documents. He said the document contained a questionnaire, which he would have had to answer when applying for access to classified information. Kert has also said those who brought the KGB document to the press had wanted to blackmail him and the Defense League leadership.

Nuclear Waste Storage Site Under Police Guard

LD2401133195 Stockholm Sveriges Radio Network in Swedish 1130 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As we reported earlier, large quantities of radioactive material have gone missing in Estonia. Waste, containing radioactive sources of radiation, was found a couple of weeks ago in a ditch by the side of a road, and last fall a man died from radiation injuries after having stolen metals from Estonia's store for nuclear waste, situated in Saku, south of the capital, Tallinn. The store, meant for low and medium-active waste, lies in a somewhat remote area just outside the capital. Our correspondent Ingrid Gustavsson reports from the nuclear waste store in Estonia:

[Gustavsson] This is Estonia's waste plant for radioactive materials, lying in Saku, some 10 km outside Tallinn. This waste store lies in the middle of a forest. It is surrounded by a fence, a barbed wire fence only one meter high. After the theft, it is now being guarded around the clock by police, but in the past it was poorly guarded. The waste is being stored here in a concrete bunker. It has different compartments, and those compartments which are full are sealed with a concrete lid, but those that are not full have only a tin lid. And here now is the radioactive source found in a ditch by the road to Narva; it lies here, radiating.

What you can hear now is a dosimeter which shows, outside this waste plant, the scale of the radiation.

[Begin recording] [Gustavsson, in English] Jan Saar [not further identified], how high is the radiation right now?

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[Saar, in English] It is (?30) [words indistinct] (?mega-sieverts) per hour, approximately. [end recording]

[Gustavsson] Thirty and 90 (?sieverts) per hour, 20-30 meters from this strongly radiating piece of metal. That is about 300 times higher radiation than the normal background level. (Hannu Putnik), chief of the measuring laboratory, established with another type of gauge that this is Cesium 137. The metal piece, containing the source of the radiation, is simply placed directly on the ground.

[Begin Putnik recording, in English] It was urgent to move this source onto a controlled area, and we are planning what to do with it right now. [end recording]

[Gustavsson] It was urgent to move this source of radiation to a controlled area, Hannu Putnik said. Now they are uncertain what to do with it. It must be stored in a container, but the rescue service does not have access to remote-controlled equipment, nor does it have containers to encapsulate the waste.

The long-term problem is what to do with the actual storage in Saku, which does not fulfil any international norms of any kind. A fresh inventory carried out by Kurt Bergman of the IAEA, shows that the store contains large quantities of cesium, strontium and radium, which in different ways are very dangerous to humans coming into direct contact with these substances.

After the theft last fall, there are policemen at the site, but it is a forest area, without lighting, which is difficult to guard. What will the police do if someone tries to force their way in?

[Unidentified voice] [Words indistinct]

[Gustavsson] If they are unarmed, we just arrest them; if they use weapons, we too must use weapons, the policeman by the barbed wire fence has just said.

First 50 Tons of Reactor Water Purified at Paldiski

WS2501104595 Tallinn BNS in English 1559 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Jan 24, BNS—A Finnish-led team working at the former Russian nuclear reactor facility at Paldiski, Estonia, had purified 50 tons of low-radioactive water by Tuesday morning, officials told BNS.

Using a full-automatic purification system supplied by Finland's Imatran Voima (IVO), the team purifies about 4-5 cubic meters of water per day. The operation is run by IVO's Estonian subsidiary.

The Finnish Government has given the equivalent of five million Estonian kroons for financing the work.

The content of radioactive cesium 137 in the water is reduced up to 3,000 times in the process, making the water clean enough to correspond to all environmental safety standards, said Henno Putnik, expert at the Estonian Institute of Meteorology and Hydrology.

The water is collected in a 250-ton tank that will be emptied into the sea after additional checks and authorization of the release by the Estonian Environment Ministry.

In the operation that began at Paldiski on Jan. 11, a total of 500 cubic meters of water formerly used in reactor coolers and other systems are to be made environmentally safe in a two-stage purification process.

The work is being carried out under surveillance by Russian nuclear experts, who are scheduled to turn the former reactor facility over to Estonia in September.

The contaminated water is taken from huge storage facilities, which also are estimated to contain some 350 cubic meters of radioactively polluted mud. Experts say the mud is up to 1,000 times more contaminated than the water.

Experts to date have completed examination of 95 percent of the water and mud samples taken from the tanks and are now charting radiation levels.

Latvia

Birkavs Confers With Ambassadors To CIS States

LD2401202995 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1800 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the Foreign Ministry today there was a gathering of ambassadors of the Republic of Latvia to the CIS states. The meeting was opened by Foreign Minister Valdis Birkavs. He emphasized that Latvia's foreign policy goal is integration into the political, economic, and security structures of Europe, (?but as he emphasized), it is also working on its foreign policy strategy in an easterly direction to ensure the realization of the main goal. Speaking at the meeting were Janis Peters, the Latvian ambassador to Russia; Peteris Simsons, the ambassador to Ukraine; and Yanis Lovniks, the ambassador to Belarus. They also reported on Latvia's potential interests in these countries and the prospects for cooperation.

Tomorrow the participants in the meeting and Foreign Ministry officials are going to Balvi, where a meeting is to be held about Latvian-Russian border issues, and the prospects for economic cooperation between Latgale Province with the Pskov Oblast in the Russian Federation.

Premier, Czech Defense Minister Discuss Cooperation

LD2401151595 Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian 1400 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To discuss the prospects for future cooperation between Latvia and the Czech

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Republic, Prime Minister Maris Gailis today met Czech Defense Minister Vilem Holan who is in Latvia on an official visit. Spheres of future cooperation between the two countries—training of Latvian officers at the Czech Military Academy, joint exercises, exchange visits by military experts, and cooperation in the framework of the program Partnership for Peace—were discussed there.

But at a meeting with Andris Ligotnis, the head of the Saeima commission on defense and internal affairs, the Czech defense minister spoke about the issues related to joining NATO by the two countries.

Lithuania

Sweden Supports Lithuania's Membership in EU

LD2401211995 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 2000 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] There are no problems in bilateral Lithuanian-Swedish relations, there can be only disputable issues, that is what was said at a news conference on Tuesday [24 January] in Vilnius by Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen.

The Swedish guest defined the current Lithuanian-Swedish relations as excellent. [passage indistinct] The Lithuanian and Swedish foreign ministers noted that a peaceful solution might be found in the conflict in the Chechen Republic. The Swedish foreign minister said, however, that Russia should not be isolated from the integration processes on the continent as that would harm the development of democracy in that state.

Upon her arrival in Vilnius on Tuesday the Swedish foreign minister said that her country was backing up the efforts of the Baltic states to become members of the European Union [EU]. The expansion of the European Union to the East, as well as the [word indistinct] membership of the Baltic states in the European Union were the main topics of discussion of the Swedish guest and Lithuanian Foreign Affairs Minister Povilas Gylys. According to Lena Hjelm—Wallen, an associated membership in the European Union could be an initial step toward full membership in the organization. In his turn, Povilas Gylys expressed satisfaction over what he called a successful start of Lithuania's talks with the European Union. He said he believed that Lithuania and the EU would sign an agreement on Lithuania's associated membership in the organization.

The Lithuanian and Swedish foreign ministers also discussed the issue of a visa-free regime between the two states. Miss Lena Hjelm-Wallen said that the problem was that Lithuania had not yet signed the Geneva refugee convention.

Slezevicius, French Envoy Discuss EU Membership

LD2401193095 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The government press attache reports that Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius received Philippe de Suremain, French ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary in Lithuania, at his request today.

Currently France is chairing the European Union [EU]. This is the time when this organization will examine agreements with the Baltic states. On this occasion, the French ambassador denied rumors that the interests of his country in the Mediterranean might be in conflict with the interests of the Baltic states. [as heard]

Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius stated unequivocally that Lithuania is striving for full membership in the European Union by the year 2000.

International issues were discussed with the ambassador. Philippe de Suremain stressed that Lithuania's policy regarding the conflict in the south of Russia coincided with France's stance. At the same time, the diplomat drew attention to the fact that the European Union and his country are applying great efforts to settle the conflict in Chechnya. According to him, a lack in these efforts often goes unnoticed. A peaceful settlement of the conflict is a matter of honor to Russia. Russia's membership in European organizations depends on it, said the diplomat.

The French ambassador welcomed the solution of the issue of military transit by the Lithuanian Government. In his view, such a solution will facilitate Europe's stability.

The issue of the French embassy building in Vilnius were discussed. It is planned to open the building on 20 February. A delegation of the French Foreign Ministry is to pay a visit to Lithuania on that occasion.

Leading Officials, Iranian Ambassador Discuss Relations

LD2401113595 Tehran IRNA in English 1049 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Jan. 24, IRNA—Iran's accredited Ambassador to the Republic of Lithuania Reza Astaneh- Parast, met and discussed matters of mutual interest with several Lithuanian authorities.

He held talks with Lithuania's president, minister of foreign affairs, deputies for Agriculture, Education and Culture Ministries as well as Vilnius university chancellor, head of Muslims' Foundation and head of the European Bank.

Astaneh-Parast, who is also Iran's ambassador to Poland, discussed exchange of political delegations as well as economic cooperation between the two countries with president of the country.

In another meeting, Lithuanian foreign minister termed Iran's role in the region as effective and said that exchange of delegations between the two countries would further expand mutual cooperation.

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The Iranian diplomat also discussed exchange of university students, instructors and books as well as teaching Persian language and literature courses in Vilnius University with the country's deputy education and culture minister.

The two countries' potentials in agriculture and livestock breeding as well as investment in foodstuff industries were topics reviewed during the ambassador's meeting with Lithuania's deputy agriculture minister.

Astaneh-Parast also briefed head of the European Bank on procedures for making investment in Iran.

Kozyrev Discusses Lithuania Trade Ties

LD2401191695 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1700 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev thinks that all the prerequisites exist for introducing most favored status in trade to Lithuania. He stated this at a news conference in Minsk in reply to a question by a BNS correspondent.

Andrey Kozyrev was paying an official visit to Minsk yesterday and today. The Russian and Belarusian foreign ministers initialled a state friendship treaty and signed several documents on bilateral cooperation.

The Russian foreign minister stated at the news conference that all matters on introducing favored trade will be finally settled when Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius shortly meets Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in Moscow.

Speaking of the Lithuanian [indistinct word] military transit conditions, Andrey Kozyrev noted that this order had been coordinated [indistinct word] of both sides. But he warned that Lithuania should refrain from its intention to deport Russian citizens Ivanov and others. Lithuania's intentions to send from its territory several Russian citizens [indistinct words] unnecessary tension. According to him, Russia is striving for civilized good-neighborly relations with Lithuania and hopes that the incident that provoked a wave of criticism will be settled.

However, a member of the Kozyrev delegation spoke to the BNS correspondent about a possible worsening of Russia's relations with Lithuania if Lithuania deports Russian citizens. Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma Committee for CIS Affairs and Links With Compatriots, stated that if Russian citizens are deported, this will greatly worsen Lithuanian-Russian relations, above all in the economic sphere. Asked to give concrete meaning to these words, he said that this first of all applies to the coming into force of the favored trade conditions. According to him, the fact of deportation would influence the opinion of many deputies during the ratification of the agreement with Lithuania.

President Welcomes Compromise With Russia

LD2401194295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1805 GMT 24 Jan 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: No. 14 (757); compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Algirdas Brazauskas described as an important political event the January 18 exchange of notes between Lithuania and Russia.

He said that as a result of the exchange the procedures of Russian military transit to the Kaliningrad Region across Lithuania that had been in force when Russian troops had been pulled out of Germany would be maintained. Brazauskas said that the procedures had been thoroughly tried and resulted in no accident.

He disagreed with the opposition complaints to the effect that legitimizing those procedures was dangerous to Lithuania. In Brazauskas's view, the decision made by his government confirmed the country's ability to come to terms with its neighbors. He explained that Lithuania's security was not in being armed to the teeth and higher up but in an intelligent foreign policy, cooperation and good relations with its neighbors.

He said that Russia had simultaneously put into effect the November 1993 trade and economic agreement with Lithuania providing for most favored trading conditions. Brazauskas said that the dual taxation in trading had been an abnormal phenomenon in the relations with Russia. This problem has been rectified, he said.

He called on Latvia and Estonia to find a way to have a most favored nation arrangements with Russia. Brazauskas believed that this kind of agreement would also benefit Russia which wants to join the International Trade Organization.

Brazauskas: Cooperation With Neighbors Possible

WS2401130195 Tallinn BNS in English 1851 GMT 23 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 23, BNS—Lithuania's agreement with Russia on military transit "indicates even more that we are able to come to understanding with neighbors and that our security does not mean to get armed to the teeth and higher," says Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

In his traditional Monday [23 January] radio interview, Brazauskas emphasized that a wise foreign policy and cooperation with neighbors are the main security guarantees for a country without a powerful "war machine."

As regards Russian military transit, Brazauskas said Lithuania's decision "causes no doubt." He pointed out that no incidents occurred during the withdrawal of Russian troops from Germany and that the same regulations can be successfully applied to Russian military

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transit to and from the Kaliningrad region. In his opinion, the existing rules can be improved in the future.

"Life will show whether there were any losses," he said. Brazauskas noted that the volume of military transit has considerably decreased lately, therefore he says it should cause no misunderstandings in Lithuania's internal policy.

The president said the new military transit rules, which were supposed to take effect Jan. 1, have not been revoked and should be sent to countries that may need to transport military cargos through Lithuania. Brazauskas said the rules would be negotiated and applied if agreement is reached. But he did not rule out the possibility that the existing regulations will be applied not only to Russia but to other countries, as well.

Referring to the granting of the most favored nation status to Lithuania by Russia, Brazauskas said preferential treatment in trade was especially important to businessmen, industrialists and others who "conduct business operations with Russia." The Lithuanian president expressed hope that Latvia and Estonia will also search for ways to establish similar trade ties with Russia.

Government to Remain Firm on Russian Troop Transit

LD2401164295 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1420 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The most favored nation status granted by Russia, relations between state and church, and other pressing issues of our political and social life were discussed at a news conference today with Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius. Here is [words indistinct] with the details:

[Unidentified correspondent] The government's stance will remain firm. We are pleased with the results; this is how the prime minister described the implementation of the rules on military transit and the most favored nation status granted to Lithuania by Russia.

According to the prime minister, the government has created significantly better conditions for our businessmen to maintain cooperation with one of Lithuania's most important economic partners. Adolfas Slezevicius said that as a result of double customs tariffs, Lithuanian industrialists with interests in Russia suffered half a billion [currency not specified] during the period when the most favored nation status was not valid. According to the prime minister, easing the conditions for active trade with Russia should not bring about an essential shift toward the east, because there are enough Lithuanian businessmen and industrialists who have already found their business partners in the West. Trade is made where it is more beneficial. [passage omitted]

The prime minister confirmed once again at the news conference that the litas will not be devalued. However, in order to ensure a really stable currency market and to block the way to wilful acts by the banks, it will be proposed that the Lithuanian commercial banks set up a long-term credit program with a fixed interest rate. Then no bank will be interested in maintaining large reserves of hard currency, Adolfas Slezevicius said.

Results of Military Transit Talks Satisfactory

WS2501105695 Tallinn BNS in English 1838 GMT 24 Jan 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 24, BNS—The Lithuanian Government is satisfied with the general results of talks with Russia on military transit and the introduction of the most favored nation treatment in bilateral trade, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said Tuesday [24 January].

Slezevicius noted, however, that the negotiating process is not over yet, because the sides are still to coordinate military transit by air. The fact was indicated in a note presented to the Russian Foreign Ministry last week, he said.

Slezevicius said one of the essential differences between the earlier military transit regulations, which will remain effective until the end of this year, and the new rules is that the regulations make no mention of transit by air.

The premier said the new rules, although not introduced, had a positive influence and "to some extent" changed Russia's position. The rules and Moscow's reaction enabled to achieve a goal desired by all political parties—to prevent the signing of a military transit agreement, he added.

Slezevicius said a decision to prepare Lithuania's internal military transit rules was taken in mid-1994, when military transit talks between Lithuania and Russia reached deadlock.

Commenting on the economic effect of the most favored nation status in trade with Russia, Slezevicius said there will be no major structural changes in Lithuania's foreign trade, which will still be oriented toward the West. In his opinion, Lithuania will considerably benefit from active trade ties with the East.

The premier said losses incurred by Lithuanian enterprises as a result of double taxation amount to about 0.5 billion lits (USD0.125 billion), because Lithuanian goods were unable to enter the markets of the CIS.

It is much better not to lose such sums, while enterprises must decide themselves which markets, Western or Eastern, are more profitable, he said, adding that the government only seeks to create favorable conditions for trade with a major economic partner.

Migration Department To Deport Ex-Soviet Activists

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Jan 23, BNS—The Lithuanian Migration Department says it is firmly

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decided on the deportation of four former members of the pro-Soviet organization Yedinstvo from Lithuania.

The department is soon to reply to appeals filed by Valeri Ivanov, the organization's former leader, and three others, who have been asked to leave the country by Jan. 22.

Ceslovas Blazys, the department's director, said the decision to deport four persons who fought against Lithuania's independence is "well-founded," while their complaints "do not change the essence of the matter."

The four were asked to leave Lithuania in December on the grounds that their actions may threaten the country's security and public order.

Ivanov has served a three-year prison sentence in Lithuania for participation in the January 1991 failed Soviet coup attempt. After his release last October, Ivanov openly spoke about his plans to continue political activities.

The term of leave expired on Sunday but no sanctions have been applied so far to Ivanov or the three others. A decision to deport the ex-Soviet activists from Lithuania by force must be taken by Interior Minister Romasis Vaitekunas. But the minister earlier expressed doubts about the action, saying a "decision to deport a person cannot be based only on newspaper publications."

The intended deportation aroused stormy protests in Moscow. On Dec. 30, the Russian Foreign Ministry called in Lithuania's ambassador, Romualdas Kozyrovicius, to express "serious concern" about a "campaign of driving unwanted persons out of the country."

The Russian parliament's lower house, the State Duma, issued an appeal last week, comparing Ivanov's case to mass deportations of Lithuanians to Siberia in post-war years.

After the appeal was received, the Lithuanian parliament's Human and Civil Rights Committee asked the Migration Department to provide information about Ivanov and three other former Yedinstvo activists. Blazys said he intends to reply this week with documents substantiating the need to deport the four from Lithuania.

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